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PM: Keep adding value to build stronger nation

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PUTRAJAYA: If no efforts are made by the people to add value to themselves, development would come to a halt and civilisation could fall apart, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

The government, on its part, would ensure that quality human capital continued to be produced beyond 2020, but every Malaysian must strive to improve themselves for a stronger nation.

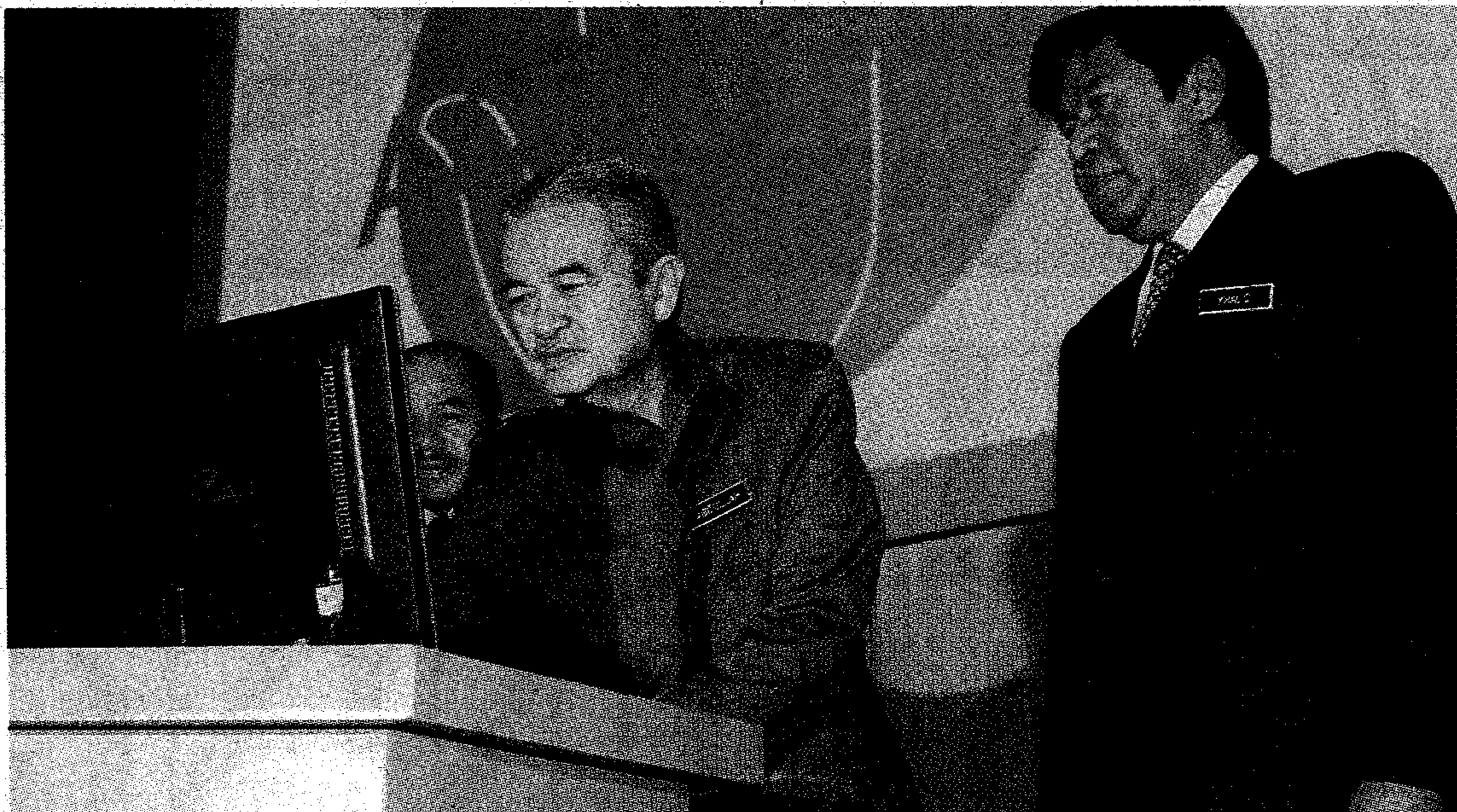
"Adding value to ourselves or human capital development is one of the five thrusts in the national mission.

"We must forever add value to ourselves and strive to do better. Otherwise, we will come to a state where we can no longer move forward but remain static and make no more progress. This can cause civilisation to collapse."

He said this when launching a district development dialogue, the "e-Merah" system and "i Cerve u" portal by the Implementation and Co-ordination Unit (ICU) in the Prime Minister's Department at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre.

Also present were Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Aziz Shamsuddin, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Hassan, ICU director-general Tan Sri Khalid Ramli, Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Musa Hassan, Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Ismail Adam, menteri besar and chief ministers.

"If we continue to produce the same old products year in, year out, and make no effort to impro-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi launching the 'e-Merah' system and 'i Cerve u' portal yesterday. Looking on are Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Hassan (left) and Implementation and Co-ordination Unit director-general Tan Sri Khalid Ramli (right).

vide or add value to them, our efforts will go to waste and be meaningless," Abdullah said.

Among Malaysians' locally-produced items which had improved and gained international recognition were batik and songket.

"Batik almost became extinct but my late wife (Datin Seri) Endon (Mahmood) who loved batik, managed to revive its glory. Her relentless efforts have led to batik being given a new lease of life."

Abdullah said Endon also tried to revive songket but the effort was cut short by her death.

"Now, the Raja Permaisuri Agong is giving attention to songket. I believe that just like batik, songket will soon gain inter-

national fame."

He said the process of lifting oneself with knowledge or self-improvement must never stop. "We must promise ourselves that we can do better, much better than before and continue to learn to improve ourselves."

Abdullah added that civil servants in the implementing agencies must also add value so that they could execute government plans and development programmes effectively.

Earlier, when addressing civil servants at the monthly assembly of the Internal Security Ministry, Abdullah, who is also Internal Security Minister, drove home similar points, saying world-class in-

frastructure or sophisticated equipment had no meaning if the people and government servants did not add value to themselves.

"Quality human capital or workforce is an asset to every nation to enable it to face stiff competition and a changing economy. It serves as our strength and must be developed," he said.

On "e-Merah", Abdullah expressed hope that it would enable district offices to update and plan district developments.

Khalid, meanwhile, said the RM2 million "i Cerve u" portal would provide villagers with "government services at their doorstep" and overcome "digital poverty" in rural areas.