

# Abdullah would rather work than answer critics

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**KOTA BARU:** Development projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) will be spread across the country and leave no state behind, the prime minister said.

Officiating at the ground-breaking for the RM143 million second Sultan Yahya Bridge here yesterday, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi conceded that there were still many facilities and various infrastructure lacking in the country despite the progress it had achieved.

"Our position is that we will keep providing them so that the development of the states and people continues," he said.

The ground-breaking was the first of several project launches to be unveiled by the prime minister during his two-day visit to the state.

The prime minister said the government would improve the needed infrastructure and hoped the state government would co-operate by speeding up land acquisitions.

On another matter, the prime minister said the best way to deal with the relentless criticism over his development initiatives was to let the projects speak for themselves.

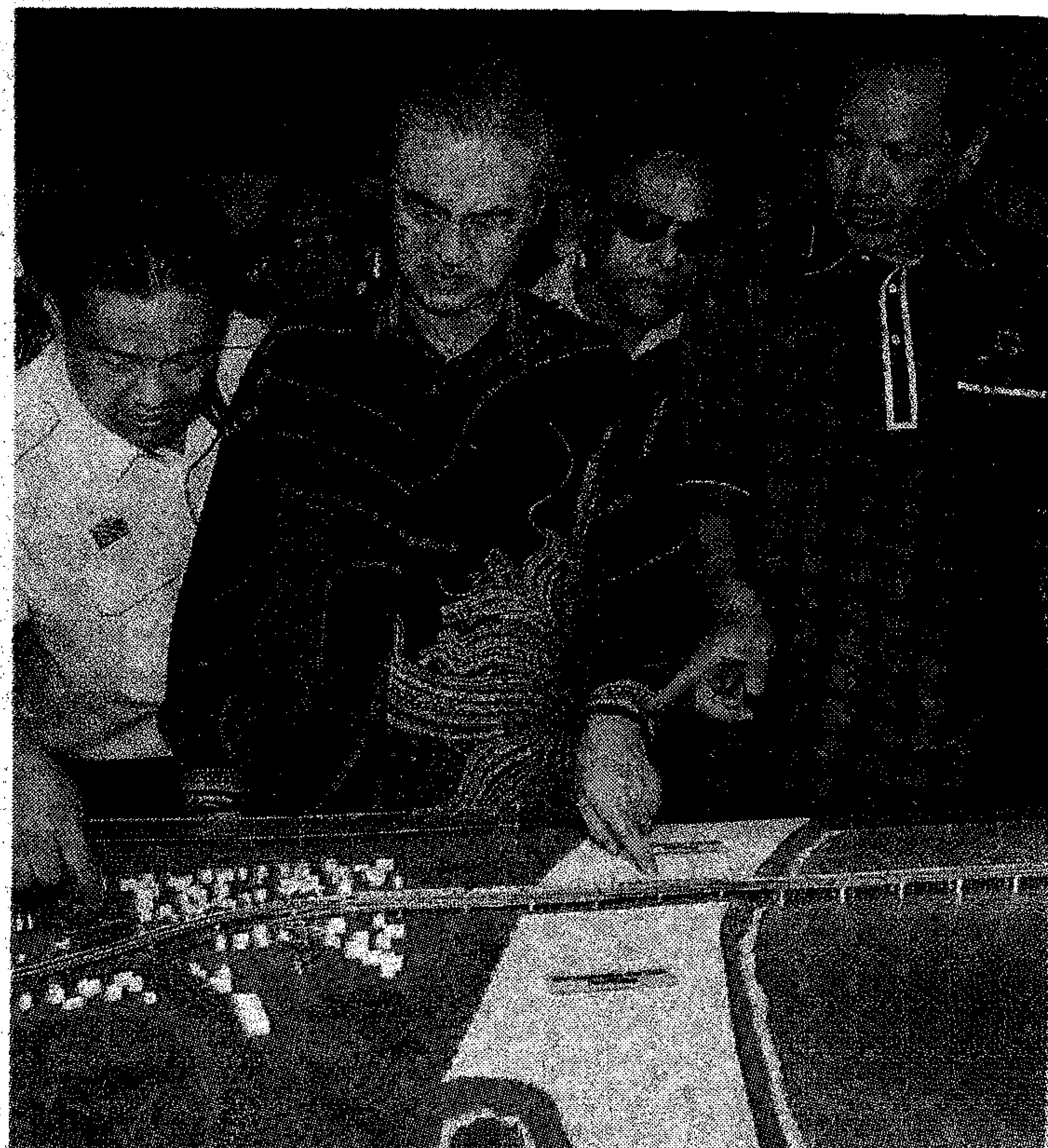
"I sometimes get tired of talking. Instead, I just want to see the work done," he said at the launching of Kada (Kemubu Area Development Authority) Square, a riverside development in Ketereh near here yesterday.

Abdullah said he preferred to focus on detailed planning for development projects, which are meant for the public good, and then carrying them out to full completion.

He said he would meet with local leaders beforehand to discuss the needs of the rakyat, and when the projects were implemented, he would inspect their progress.

"We can't waste time talking endlessly. This is the time for work," he said.

"From the planning stage to implementation, I am continuously



**Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi viewing a model of the RM143 million second Sultan Yahya Bridge in Kota Baru yesterday. With him are (from left) Redland Group of Companies chief executive Datuk Ismail Hassan, Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and Kelantan Umno chief Datuk Seri Annuar Musa.**

being asked by critics why we need to spend so much money and where the money is coming from.

"When the project is underway, they again query if the budget approved by parliament is enough.

"This is just their habit. If I want to ask them, I can think of a hundred questions but I choose to spend my time working and making sure all these projects are completed," he said.