

PM to chair NCER body

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Heads of four states to also be members

TAIPING: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will chair the coordinating body that will oversee the implementation of projects and programmes for the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER).

Abdullah said the Perlis, Perak and Kedah mentris besar and the Penang chief minister would also be members to ensure that every state involved in the project would be aware of the decisions made.

"A single body is needed to ensure smooth implementation for the NCER. It will also ensure cooperation by everyone," he told reporters after launching the Perak level of the NCER at Kampung Selinsing, 25km from here, yesterday.

On the socio-economic blueprint for the NCER drawn up Sime Darby Bhd, the Prime Minister said it would be adopted as the masterplan for the region.

"Sime Darby has done a good job and spent



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many hours on it and it will be a waste not to adopt it as a masterplan. We will adopt everything but there may be some adjustments," he added.

When asked if the region would attract foreign investments, Abdullah said there were already many enquiries after the publicity given to the NCER.

He added that RM177bil worth of investments were expected for the region in the next 18 years and he was confident that many private companies would be keen to participate.