

THE STAR

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Boost for East Coast states

Masterplan for Kelantan and Terengganu to be unveiled by year's end

KEPALA BATAS: Kelantan and Terengganu will soon be developed under a comprehensive plan, similar to the recently launched Northern Corridor Economic Region, to improve the livelihood of the people and eradicate poverty in the two states.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the East Coast Economic Corridor plan, now being drawn up by Petronas, was expected to be unveiled before the end of the year.

"We promise and we deliver. This is our policy. We don't promise something just as an election gimmick to fish for votes.

"It is not an empty promise. The people know this. I don't do things to mislead them as God is watching what I am doing and what I have promised them.

"They know our capabilities and I believe they will return the mandate to us once again in the next general election," he said when opening the Kepala Batas Umno division annual general meeting at Dewan Millennium here.

Abdullah said emphasis would be given to poverty eradication, while the agriculture and agro-based industry would be the thrust of the plan for the corridor.

He added that he had directed Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Ministry Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to look into replanting oil palm trees



Let there be levity: Abdullah trying on a Puteri Umno vest in Kepala Batas yesterday. Among those present were (from left) Kepala Batas Umno Youth chief Datuk Ahmad Darus, the division's Puteri Umno chief Azlina Mehtab Mohd Ishaq and the division's deputy chief Datuk Roslan Saidin. - Bernama

on a big scale as the commodity had good prospects.

"I have also asked Muhyiddin to seriously consider the cultivation of giant sweet potatoes on a big scale

as the tuber can produce 12 different products. I have also told him to build factories in the east coast states to manufacture products using sweet potatoes," he said,

adding that tobacco farmers in the two states had asked for an alternative crop as they were no longer keen in the tobacco industry.

Abdullah, who is also Umno pres-

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

ident, paid tribute to past Umno leaders, including his father Ahmad Badawi.

He said it was time the people fulfilled the true meaning of Independence by acquiring knowledge and skills to upgrade themselves and help steer the country to greater heights.

"Without Independence and the struggles of our forefathers, we would still be slaves of the colonial government," he added.

Abdullah also presented souvenirs to Kepala Batas Umno veterans and launched the Kepala Batas Puteri Umno election machinery.