

# Masterplan boost for northern region

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**ALOR STAR:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday launched a masterplan to spur growth and boost income levels in the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER), which is home to 4.29 million people.

At the launch, he unveiled a slew of projects aimed at transforming and expanding the agricultural, manufacturing, logistics and tourism sectors of the north, covering Perlis, Kedah, Penang and northern Perak.

In Kedah, Abdullah visited the Muda

Agricultural Development Authority (Mada), where he launched the Mada estate management programme.

Abdullah, accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, also launched the NCER logo and website ([www.ncer.com.my](http://www.ncer.com.my)).

He later went to Perlis where he opened the Seed Research and Development Centre, initiated by Sime Darby, the company that developed the NCER masterplan.

Earlier, when launching the NCER, Abdullah presented a copy of the

blueprint each to Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim, Perak Menteri Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

The launching was done together with the four state leaders, who placed their respective state emblem on a white board, followed by Abdullah placing the Malaysian emblem.

Abdullah will launch the NCER programme in Penang and Perak today.