

PM to launch growth plan for north

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ALOR STAR: It's all systems go.

All preparations are ready at the grounds of the Muda Agricultural Development Authority's complex in Ampang Jajar here to welcome some 10,000 people, including about 1,000 VIPs, for the launching of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) tomorrow.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will launch the NCER, the growth blueprint for the northern states aimed at bringing

progress to the rural areas.

The NCER, the second regional growth area after the Iskandar Development Region in Johor, covers Kedah, Penang, Perlis and northern Perak.

Two superdomes and some 150 smaller tents have been erected at the Mada complex to accommodate visitors.

Besides announcing the growth blueprint, Abdullah would also launch the NCER logo, website and

theme during the launching ceremony at 10.30am.

The prime minister will also launch the pioneer Jelai Padi estate to commemorate the launching of the NCER at the state level.

Later the same day, Abdullah will open the national Seed Centre in Utan Aji near Kangar.

The centre was set up by Sime Darby, which is also the master plan developer for the NCER.

On Tuesday, Abdullah will visit

Penang and northern Perak as part of his whirlwind trip to the northern states with his plans to bring greater socio-economic development to the people.

In Penang, the prime minister is expected to unveil a plan to turn the state into a regional logistics hub.

For northern Perak, Abdullah will visit Selinsing in Krian district to unveil a major development programme on human capital development programme for the youth.