

Live telecast for NCER launch

The Star - 24/7/2007.

Prime Minister to unveil a slew of projects for northern corridor

By **WONG CHUN WAI**
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

ALOR STAR: The launch of the multi-billion-ringgit Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) on Monday, where the Prime Minister will unveil a slew of projects, will be telecast live.

At least 10,000 people, including Cabinet members and state executive councillors, will be attending the event at the Muda Agricultural Development Authority (Mada) headquarters here.

Information Minister Datuk Seri Zainuddin Maidin said Kedah will be the first stop in Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's visit to the four states on July 30 and July 31.

"The NCER is a crucial element of the Ninth Malaysia Plan which will bring tremendous benefit to the people. We want the people to hear directly what the PM has to say," Zainuddin said in an interview.



Abdullah is expected to reveal plans for high-end tourism in Langkawi, where two outer islands have been earmarked for the construction of world-class resorts.

Nursing colleges will also be set up while hospitals will be built along Pantai Kok for the island's medical tourism plan.

On the mainland, there will be a premier industrial park in Kulim and high-yield padi farming and irrigation programmes for the state's padi farmers.

Zainuddin said RTM will also telecast live the opening of the Seed Research and Development Centre in Perlis on the same day.

The centre is being initiated by Sime Darby, which has been entrusted with drawing up the NCER masterplan.

An inland container depot, border town development, seed production centre and climatic fruit cluster programmes are in the pipeline for Perlis.

The plans for Kedah and Perlis will make the two states the country's premier food production centre, using modern agricultural management practices and distribution.

Zainuddin, who is Merbok MP, said padi farmers in Kedah and Perlis will benefit from the NCER, adding that they formed the Malay rural heartland of Malaysia.

"RTM will also telecast live the unveiling of plans to turn Penang into a regional logistics hub by the Prime Minister on July 31 in Butterworth," he said, adding that more than 5,000 people are expected to attend the event.

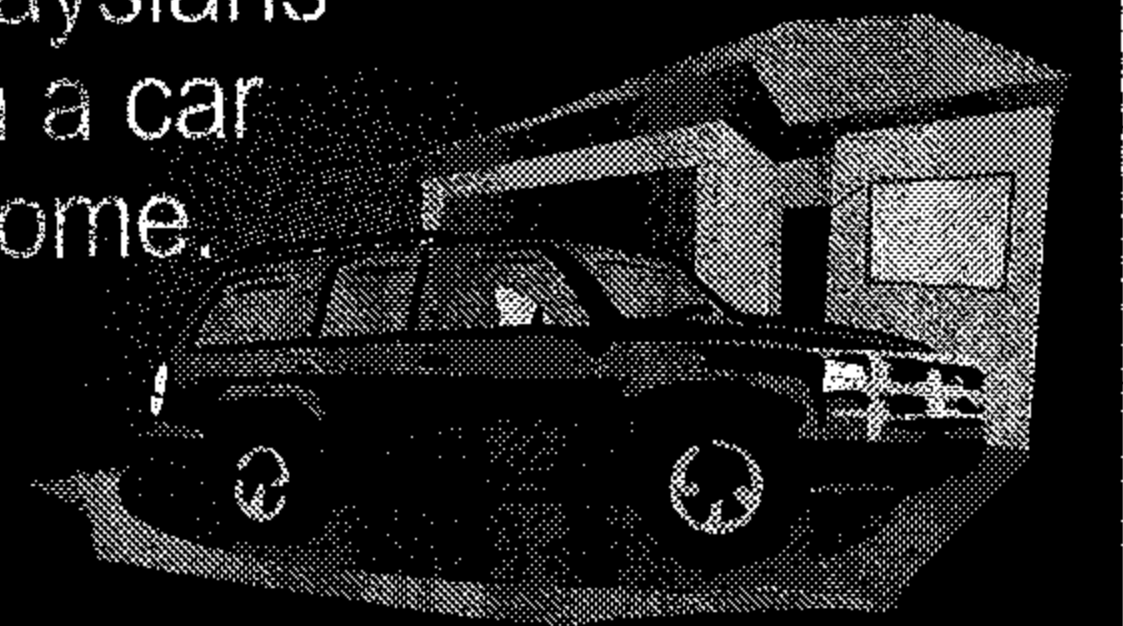
Abdullah is expected to launch the new

RapidPenang bus service.

Under the NCER, Penang Port's wharf depth will be deepened while its container terminal will be expanded.

The Penang International Airport will be expanded to include a low-cost carrier terminal and its cargo terminal will be upgraded.

69% of
Malaysians*
own a car
at home.



*Population base: All individuals aged 15+
in Peninsular Malaysia (13.4 million)
Source: Nielsen Media Index Jan-Dec '06