

# High-impact aquaculture will benefit fishermen, says Pak Lah

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**KUALA BERANG:** The National High-Impact Aquaculture Industry Zone (ZIA) is projected to generate a revenue of RM6.3bil in the next three years and provide vast opportunities for fresh graduates and fishermen in the country, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister said 700 participants would be given the opportunity to manage 39 sites in ZIA, earning a minimum RM3,000 a month.

Abdullah, who launched the project at SK Tapah in Kenyir Dam here, said ZIA was a new approach by the Government to help those without a steady income, like fishermen.

"The aquaculture industry is given priority in the 9th Malaysia Plan as we want to see comprehensive economic growth benefiting the people," he added.

Abdullah said the project was to help those in rural areas diversify their earnings.

The RM50mil ZIA project in Sungai Como, Kenyir Dam, the country's largest freshwater fish project, is located on a 2,800ha site.

"This is a new transformation in the local agriculture sector and I hope young graduates will take up the myriad of opportunities in this aquaculture sector," he said.

Abdullah also urged the private sector to participate in the industry, particularly in marketing aquaculture products locally and abroad.