

Shot in the arm for Sabah

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PM announces new growth corridor plan

By RUBEN SARIO
sario@thestar.com.my

KOTA KINABALU: Sabah will get a shot in the arm with the Prime Minister announcing a new development corridor plan to be carried out immediately.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the new development would involve large-scale private sector collaboration besides input from the Federal Government.

It will largely involve utilising the state's resources and focus, among other things, on the tourism, agriculture and livestock industries.

"The concentration is to speed up the development of Sabah, especially what can be

introduced through the private funding initiative (PFI) formula," Abdullah said after opening the RM60mil low-cost carrier terminal (LCCT) at the international airport here.

He said the PFI formula would encourage local companies to enter into joint ventures with foreign firms for projects to take advantage of Sabah's available resources.

Abdullah said the Sabah development corridor would be spearheaded by Sabah Foundation, Sabah Economic Development Corporation and state-owned Sawit Kinabalu Bhd, an oil palm plantation company.

He said details of the corridor including how it would be carried out were



New terminal: Abdullah signing on a plaque during the launch of the LCCT at the international airport in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. Looking on are Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman (left) and Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy. — Bernama

being worked out.

To a question, Abdullah said unlike the southern Johor development corridor that would be turned into a metropolitan area, the Sabah initiative would focus on land development.

In his speech when launching the LCCT, Abdullah said it would not only be used by budget airlines like AirAsia for domestic air operations but also by airlines operating international flights.

Noting that it was completed within a record eight

months, Abdullah said the project should serve as an example of how government departments and agencies could work with the private sector "to make things happen quickly."

On his statement on Tuesday that 85.37% of projects given to bumiputra contractors had "flowed" to those from other communities, Abdullah said it would defeat the Government's efforts to get more bumiputras to become involved in the business sector.

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI