

RM10bil projects identified during Abdullah's trip

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SANA'A (YEMEN): Potential projects worth some RM10.19bil were identified during Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's official visit to Syria and Yemen.

Those in Syria were to the tune of RM2.51bil while in Yemen it was RM7.68bil.

The major projects in Yemen include the construction of a highway (RM4.55bil), power plant (RM1.31bil) and in power transmission (RM1.12bil).

The Prime Minister said that among the potential joint ventures in Syria was real estate development

worth RM1.5bil by the UEM Group.

"The potential projects are highway construction by UEM worth RM2.5bil and an ICT Park feasibility study (Pikom) worth RM10mil," he added.

Abdullah said that Syrian President Dr Bashar al-Assad wanted Malaysia to play a more active role in the development of the republic.

"He sees that what Malaysia has can also be used by Syria, with modifications to suit their needs.

A joint economic committee with Syria and another with Yemen have also been set up. The committees will be co-chaired by International

Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz and her respective counterparts from Syria and Yemen.

Work Minister Datuk S. Samy Vellu said in Kuala Lumpur, meanwhile, that highway projects in Syria included a 60km stretch of the 100km Damascus outer ring road. Other projects were the construction of a new international airport, low-cost houses, hospitals and a light rail transport.

"A German company has completed the design for 40km (of the road). We don't mind working with them (German company) to com-

plete the remaining 20km of the road," Samy Vellu said after launching MIC's national training and employment portal and seminars yesterday.

"They wanted us to build and operate the light rail transport but due to high cost, it was not taken up by any Malaysian company. Our companies cannot afford it and I have requested the Syrian Government to share the cost of construction," he said.

Samy Vellu had accompanied the Prime Minister during his visit to Syria.