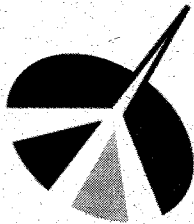


DATE: 30/10/2007

PM extends olive branch to Pas-led Kelantan

NST- 30/10/2007



**EAST
COAST
ECONOMIC
REGION**

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob and Johor MB Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman.

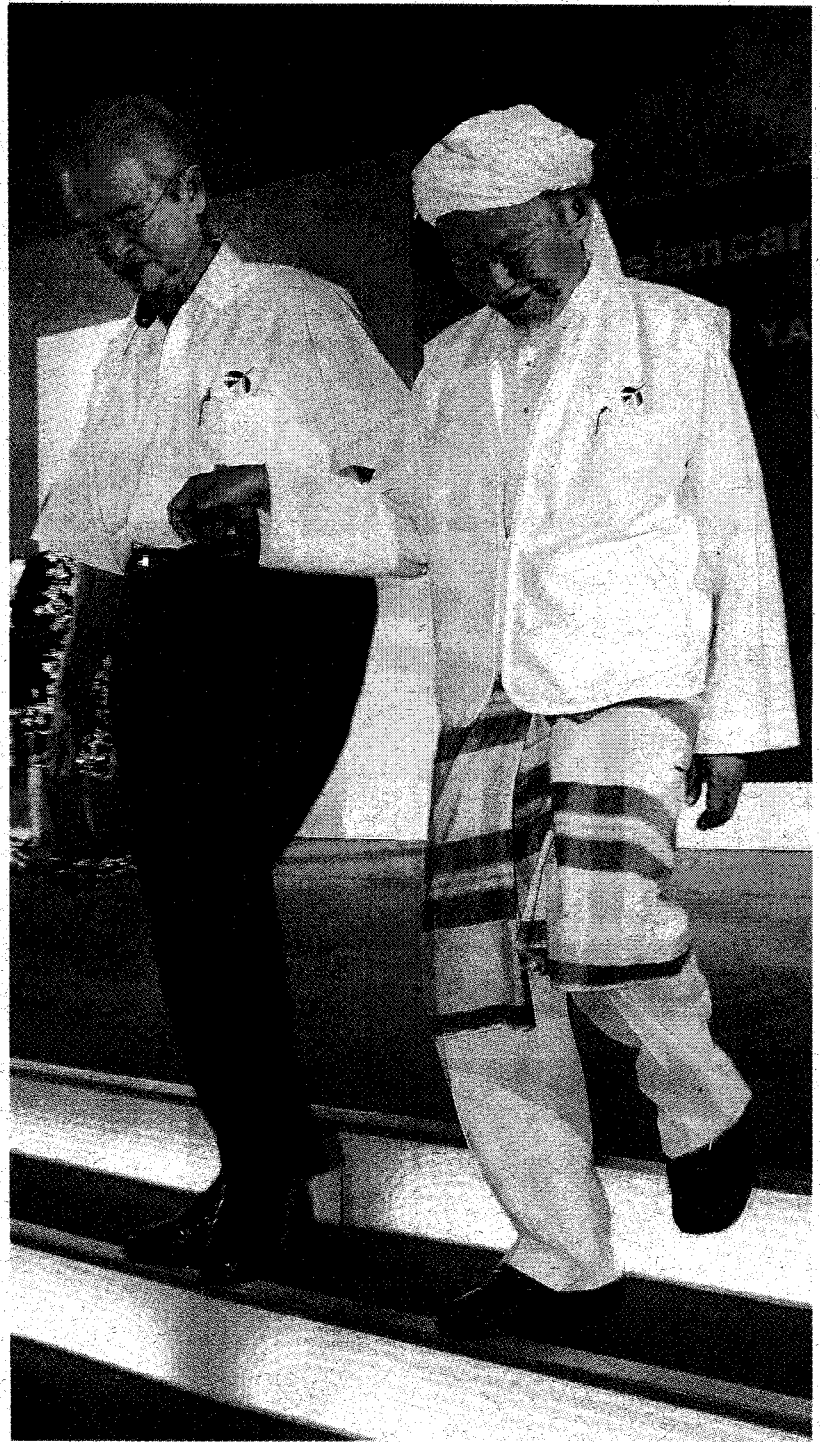
Abdullah stressed that the ECER's aims were not only for monetary gains, but also in pursuit for knowledge and honour for the future generation.

"We plan the ECER out of sincerity and faith to bring progress and development so that more people especially the poor can take part in business.

"The people's participation will determine the success of these projects," he said.

In outlining the plans for Kelantan, Abdullah said agriculture would continue to be developed on a large-scale using modern technology for higher yields and profits like the 2,000 vegetable and fruit farm in Bachok and Pasir Puteh which would benefit 4,000 farmers.

He said new growth areas like Kota Baru city centre in Palekbang would be created to boost tourism, while other



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi with Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat at the East Coast Economic Region launching ceremony in Kota Baru yesterday. — Bernama picture

areas like Gunung Musang, Dabong and Sungai Nenggiri would be promoted for eco-tourism.

Abdullah also announced a pilot agropolitan project similar to the Felda programme in Gua Musang, where 5,200 poor families selected as participants would be given land and homes.

Another agropolitan project will be carried out in the Kemubu Agriculture

Development Authority area in northern Kelantan involving another 4,250 families.

Later, Abdullah witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Universiti Kelantan Malaysia and South Kelantan Development Authority for the Gua Musang Agropolitan Park and the Pintar school programme.

By Alina Simon, Sulaiman Jaafar and Syed Umar Ariff
news@nst.com.my

KOTA BARU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday extended an olive branch to the Pas-led Kelantan government by requesting its co-operation in ensuring the success of the East Coast Economic Region (ECER).

Abdullah who launched the ECER for Kelantan at a glittering afternoon ceremony here, said the multi-billion development package covering Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang and Mersing in Johor, was testimony of his commitment to bring development to the state.

In expressing his sincerity in wanting to see Kelantan being part of the mainstream development, Abdullah said ECER aimed to give a boost to the economy in depressed areas and improve the livelihood of its people.

The ECER would bring more jobs and Kelantanese youth would have a reason to stay instead of migrating in the thousands annually to the cities in search of work.

"When the plan was being formulated, I didn't want to look back and hear stories of what happened in the past.

"What I want to see is for us to look forward to the future.

"We need to work together and we need to do it with sincerity.

"There is no need to rehash things that had happened in the past," he said in a 35-minute speech which was televised live over RTM1.

Also present at the ceremony was his wife Datin Seri Jeanne Abdullah, Kelantan Menteri Besar Datuk Nik Aziz Nik Mat, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Pahang