

NEW STRAITS TIMES

DATE: 27/08/2007

PM: Be ready to carry out East Coast Corridor plan

NST- 27/8/2007

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KUALA TERENGGANU: The governments of Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang must be ready to execute the proposals and recommendations contained in the East Coast Corridor Development Master Plan when it is launched later this year, the prime minister said.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the blueprint was ready and the consent of the Sultans of the three states

would be sought before Hari Raya Aidilfitri.

"We are ready but I cannot announce the details just yet. We will have to get the consent of the Sultans first," he told a press conference after closing the Terengganu Barisan Nasional convention yesterday.

Petronas is spearheading the development drive in the East Coast Corridor, focusing on downstream activities based on petrochemicals, handicrafts and tourism.

Earlier, he said everyone

would have to work hard once the master plan had been launched.

"This is my reminder to the civil service, state executive councils and menteri besar.

"The East Coast Corridor will become the catalyst for more development in this region.

"Everyone must work hard," he said.

Abdullah said despite the rapid development in Terengganu, the process of social and economic transformation would not end.

"There are too many things that need to be done and the Barisan Nasional government must show its commitment.

"Only then will the people see the sincerity in our efforts and will continue to co-operate with us," he said.

He reiterated the need to reduce bureaucratic red tape so that decisions could be made quickly.

Abdullah also wanted the administration in the civil service to become more efficient and lead the engine of growth in the country's economy.

"The public services are being pressured to fulfil all sorts of demands from the people.

"We need to work hard," he said.

Abdullah commended the Terengganu government for its ability to fulfil the promises made in the 2004 general election.

"I am happy and I am not worried about Terengganu.

"The people's support for the government is evident.

"I believe they will continue to support the Barisan Nasional," he said.