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10.7% of 9MP projects completed, says PM

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said a total of 3,207 or 10.7% of the 29,947 projects approved under the 9th Malaysia Plan (9MP) were completed by Aug 31.

In a written reply to Lim Hock Seng (DAP-Bagan), he said another 8,467 projects or 28.3% earmarked under the economic development plan are in various levels of implementation.

The remainder 18,273 or 61% projects, which included those in the planning stages, are yet to be implemented.

Abdullah said the 9MP project implementation is being monitored by the Project Monitoring System II due to the number of projects being

At the Dewan Rakyat

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undertaken. In a written reply to Salahuddin Ayub (PAS-Kubang Kerian), he said though the government encourages foreign investors to help in the development of the respective economic corridors, it would not "let go" (*terlepas*) the corridors to foreigners.

"The question of letting go or not does not arise in the development of the economic corridors as the government has ensured its development is planned and monitored by a body which would

be established for the purpose," he said.

He cited the example of the Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) which is responsible for the

development of the Iskandar Development Region and decides on investments from foreign countries.

"It is also the same for the Northern Corridor Economic Region which is managed by the Northern Corridor Implementation Agency. These bodies will function as agencies which would be responsible for the detailed and careful planning of each corridor, as well as ensuring the master plan of each corridor is competitive

and implemented," he said.

Abdullah said other government agencies such as Khazanah Nasional and related ministries will also monitor the implementation of projects in the respective corridors to ensure no problems crop up.

"We have to accept the fact that we need the involvement of foreign investors to succeed," he said, adding the government had made the appropriate policy change to ensure each corridor is attractive to both local and foreign investors.

"The government will ensure that these investments from abroad will not result in any undesirable or negative effect towards the planned corridors," said Abdullah.