



SAFETY MEASURE: Abdullah putting a helmet on Damia Husna Mohd Hassan, nine, while Muhammad Ikhwan Rosli, also nine, looks on in Kuala Terengganu yesterday. With them are (from left) Health Minister Datuk Dr Chua Soi Lek, Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Idris Jusoh and Chan.

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Teaching road safety to the young

BY K. SUTHAKAR

KUALA TERENGGANU: For the first time, interactive CD-ROMs will be distributed to the 8,000-odd primary schools in the country to teach the young about road safety.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the focus was on schoolchildren as they would one day drive cars and motorcycles.

"We want to expose the young to road safety as many lives are lost in accidents, especially during the *balik kampung* exodus during festive periods," he said when launching the national-level road safety campaign and World Health Day celebration

here yesterday.

He received the CD-ROMs from Transport Minister Datuk Seri Chan Kong Choy and presented them to Education Ministry director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat.

Abdullah said the Transport Ministry has produced 20,000 CD-ROMs for distribution to schools.

He reminded parents to include simple advice on road safety when they learn their children would soon be visiting them from far away.

"They must inform their children or visitors to drive safely to avoid dead bodies reaching the homes of their beloved ones," he said.

He said studies showed 80% of acci-

dents were caused by the human factor.

He added that about RM3bil was spent last year to treat victims of accidents.

"This does not include the social costs which are definitely higher and difficult to estimate," he said.

Abdullah said the Government wanted drivers of commercial vehicles to upgrade their driving skills.

Therefore, he said, the move by the Automotive Centre of Excellence to set up an RM100mil driving centre in Terengganu was timely.

The move would help improve the driving skills of motorists in the east coast, he added.