

PM: Time now to walk the talk

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JOHOR BARU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has pledged to see through the implementation of the 9th Malaysia Plan.

"I am committed to doing it. People always ask me, 'What's next, what's next?' Just be patient as I will announce (the plans) when I am ready," he said, adding that he would also reveal details of the South Johor Economic Region as soon as the master plan was ready.

He stressed the importance of proper implementation to avoid conflicts, duplication and problems.

"We have good plans and have set up the machinery to ensure the plans are implemented to achieve the target," Abdullah said.

He added that he was now in the "implementation mood" after going around the country to explain the 9MP to the people.

"Now is the time to walk the talk. People want to know what Pak Lah is

going to do," he said, adding that the economy was expected to perform better in future.

Abdullah, who was speaking to reporters after launching the Carotino palm bio-diesel plant in Pasir Gudang here yesterday, said the plant, the first integrated bio-fuel plant in the world, was one of his many pet projects.

In his speech earlier, Abdullah said Pasir Gudang was poised to become the leading centre for palm bio-diesel not just in Malaysia but also the world.

"Besides the well-established facilities for the export of palm oil products, Pasir Gudang has the largest palm oil refining and oleo-chemical manufacturing facility," he said.

"These factors are critical for the further expansion of Pasir Gudang into becoming the leading centre for palm bio-diesel in Malaysia and the world."

Abdullah said the large number of applications for bio-diesel manufactur-

ing licences submitted to the Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (Mida) showed that the private sector was keen on developing this new industry.

"The Government has so far approved 52 manufacturing licences for bio-diesel plants with a combined capacity of more than five million tonnes of palm oil a year," he said.

Abdullah added that export revenue for oil palm related products reached RM28.6bil last year.

Earlier, Abdullah performed the groundbreaking ceremony of Nexsol (M) Sdn Bhd's bio-diesel plant and declared the Tanjung Langsat Industrial Complex a bio-diesel park.

He was happy with the area's development and reminded developers that while rapid progress was important, development of public amenities for the people should not be neglected.