

Universiti Darul Iman a promise fulfilled

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BESUT: Universiti Darul Iman, the first university in the East Coast, is a Barisan Nasional election promise on the road to becoming reality.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the ground-breaking ceremony yesterday marked the beginning of a new era for people in the region.

"We wanted to give other projects to the people of Terengganu, but they wanted a university. Today, this dream is set to become a reality," the Prime Minister told a crowd of nearly 15,000 people.

Abdullah said the university would become an institution producing human capital who would contribute immensely towards

nation-building.

He said the university belonged to the people of Terengganu and would lead to a society that was knowledgeable, sincere, trustworthy, hardworking and resilient.

The university was a promise before the general election in 2004 that saw the BN sweeping into power after ousting the Pas state government.

The university will enrol 5,080 students in its three campuses — two in Kuala Terengganu and one in Besut. By 2010, the university will have 10,000 undergraduates.

The campus in Besut will offer biotechnology, agriculture and information and communication technology while a campus in Kuala Terengganu will offer biomedic, radiography and nurs-

ing science courses. Another campus in Kuala Terengganu will offer diploma courses in religious studies, banking and accounting.

Earlier, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the university was the realisation of "development never seen before" promised by Abdullah before the last general election.

"A promise has been kept and the people of Terengganu are grateful to Pak Lah (Abdullah)."

He added that under Abdullah's leadership, Terengganu had received more people and education-oriented projects than before.

Idris named 12 such projects, including the East Coast Expressway, the new airport terminal at the Sultan Mahmud Airport, the sports complex, international

training centre in Kemaman and the industrial training institute in Marang.

Asked if more large projects were planned for the State, Abdullah said it was time to implement what had been planned.

"There must be co-ordination in the implementation. We do not want projects to become messy and squabbles to occur.

"We do not want the people to feel the impact of messy projects as we will get an adverse reaction," he said, adding that Terengganu would be receiving RM7.6 billion for development projects under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

Abdullah said it was important to learn from past mistakes so that projects could be completed on schedule and without complications.