

Abdullah rules out boycott of US and British goods

BESUT: The Government has no intention to boycott goods from the United States and Britain to protest against the two countries' support for Israel's assault on Lebanon.

"The action to boycott can backfire on Malaysia," *Bernama* quoted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as saying.

He said those who called for a boycott should think it over very deeply.

"We should not talk big and then backtrack when our action becomes a burden to us," he told reporters after performing the groundbreaking for the

Universiti Darul Iman Malaysia campus in Kampung Tembila here yesterday.

On the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday to discuss Israel's offensive on Lebanon, Abdullah said it would focus on preparations to contribute troops to a peacekeeping force once a ceasefire was agreed on.

Besides Malaysia, 15 other OIC countries are expected to attend the meeting.

Abdullah said Malaysia would continue to press for an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon.

"As long as a ceasefire is not

enforced, Israel will continue with its atrocities and more Lebanese civilians will die and the country's infrastructure will be destroyed," he said.

He said it was most regrettable that the United Nations Security Council special session on Lebanon did not achieve any result because there was no support from the United States for a ceasefire.

Instead, America supplied more weapons to Israel and this further emboldened the Jewish state to do whatever it wanted, he said.

On another matter, Abdullah said all development projects

must be implemented with care to avoid problems that could create a negative impact on the people.

Present at the groundbreaking event were Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

The 689ha campus project costing RM500mil is scheduled to be completed in 2010.

Meanwhile in Setiu, at a meet-the-people dinner gathering, Abdullah said Terengganu would witness one of the biggest ever development projects – the East Coast Development Corridor – under the 9th

Malaysia Plan.

He said the corridor would be fully funded and managed by Petronas and encompassed southern Kelantan, eastern Terengganu and northern Pahang.

He said he believed that people in the region were entitled to enjoy a standard of living equivalent to that enjoyed in other parts of the country.

"I have no intention of tarnishing my reputation when it comes to governing the country," he said.

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