

Pas must co-operate to develop State

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KOTA BARU: It is crucial that the Pas Government co-operates with the Federal Government to ensure the success of the Ninth Malaysia Plan (9MP) projects in the State.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said as the Pas Government had the authority to approve land for projects in Kelantan, the people would not see the benefits if it delayed approval or refused to co-operate.

He hoped this would not be the case as the Federal Government had allocated RM7.6 billion to ensure that Kelantan did not lag behind other states in terms of infrastructure development and the creation of educational and socio-economic opportunities.

"No one alone can ensure that these projects (for Kelantan) are

implemented. We need the co-operation of all sectors. A project needs land and this is under the jurisdiction of the State Government. I hope there are no delays in approving land for projects or these projects will not get off the ground" Abdullah told civil servants at a dinner here last night.

At the same time, he said, it was important that the Federal agencies responsible for implementing these projects ensured they were not delayed or abandoned due to poor monitoring.

Earlier, speaking at the closing of the Perkampungan Hadhari at the Wakaf Mek Zainab, he called on the people to shed old attitudes and take part actively to make the 9MP a success.

Abdullah said a top-class infrastructure would come to

naught if the country's human capital was not developed.

"Human capital development should not only be about giving knowledge but must also emphasise the development of morality and spiritual ideals," he said.

The Prime Minister is on a two-day visit to Kelantan. Also present were State Umno leaders, including State Umno chief Datuk Seri Annuar Musa and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Abdullah expressed disappointment with the environmental degradation in the State, particularly along Sungai Kelantan.

"While taking a helicopter ride just now, I saw that the water in Sungai Kelantan had turned into *kopi susu*," he said.

The Prime Minister said an allo-

cation had been made under the 9MP to improve the environment and the river.

Later, at a Press conference, Abdullah said the Federal Government had allocated RM100 million for the setting-up of Universiti Darul Naim in Kelantan.

Abdullah said the RM7.7 billion allocated to Kelantan in the 9MP was to develop the State and the people, despite it being under the control of the Opposition.

On the chances of the Barisan Nasional wresting the State from Pas, Abdullah said the chances were better now based on the increasing support for the coalition.

"The Kelantan people are ready to make changes. It is important for Umno to work harder to bring development and get the people's co-operation," he said.