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Lada: Gifts for Galeria Perdana chosen on basis of rarity, value

LANGKAWI, Fri. - The gifts displayed in Galeria Perdana here have been selected to reflect their value and rarity.

"If we are to display all the gifts given to (Prime Minister Datuk Seri) Dr Mahathir (Mohamad) locally and overseas there will be more than 50,000 items and we do not have the space," Langkawi Development Authority (Lada) general manager Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib said. Lada owns and runs the gallery.

He was commenting on a letter by a reader in the New Straits Times two days ago which said the gallery should give a "human touch" to its display.

The reader had said it seemed incomplete to show only the expensive and rare gifts.

This, she said, made it seem as if the gifts were "something unattainable by the common people". She also said that the people had given the Prime Minister simple gifts which reflected meaningful events.

She asked whether the gallery could display such gifts.

Abdul Halil said the gallery felt it was not worth exhibiting items that every Malaysian could give.

"We want to display something that is difficult to get, see or give. For instance the gift given by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to the Prime Minister is something which cannot be found in any other place.

"There are also lots of gifts from foreigners that we are unable to display because of space constraints."

He said a similar gallery would be opened in Putrajaya soon where more gifts to the Prime Minister would be displayed.

(END)