

DPM: Human development main aim of Government

SUBANG, Mon. The Government is constantly implementing plans to provide the right environment and infrastructure for overall development, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

He said the Government was very focused on the issue.

"Human development is the final aim of all developments planned by the Government because that is the most important thing," he said.

Speaking at the World Habitat Day 2001 celebrations at the Lembah Subang public housing project site, he said physical development contributed to a better living environment for the people.

He said the development programmes, plans and projects by the Government were aimed at promoting human development.

Lembah Subang is a government housing scheme where more than 3,000 units of low cost flats have been built to accommodate the needy, particularly squatters, from Selangor.

Urging the people to appreciate the good living environment provided by the Government, he said they should take responsibility for facilities made available to them.

"We must avoid vandalism and the residents here must ensure that the facilities are not damaged by anyone," Abdullah said.

Also present during the celebrations themed "Squatter Free Town", were Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Seri Ong Ka Ting, his deputy Senator Datuk M. Kavyeas and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Khir Toyo.

At a Press conference later, Abdullah, who is also the Home Minister, said that the Government had no plans to ban Malaysians from pursuing their studies in Pakistan.

"We have no such plans and have never imposed such restrictions, but parents must be wise enough to choose what is good for their children," he said when asked if the Government would prevent Malaysians from studying in Pakistan in the wake of reports about strong terrorist influence in that country.

He said parents should be more responsible in choosing the right institutions and not just send their children there just because some *madrrasah* provided free teaching.

"Actions as such might ruin the child's future and they must be very careful about this," he said.

On regional counter-terrorism efforts, Abdullah said Asean member countries have maintained close co-operation on the matter with constant exchange of information on suspected terrorists.

Abdullah said the Saudi Arabian Government was also very supportive of the idea mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a United Nations World Conference on Terrorism.

"They are very supportive of the idea," said Abdullah who just returned from a working visit to Saudi Arabia.