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STOP ADDRESSING PM AS PAK LAH, SAYS RAFIDAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 18 (Bernama) -- International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz today suggested that the people stop addressing Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as "Pak Lah."

"I wish to suggest that Malaysians, even those close to the Prime Minister, although we love (him) and we know him for a long time, I feel it's better for us to address him as Datuk Seri Abdullah.

"It's because he's the Prime Minister. Just like Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, no one would address him as Che Det, even though that's his pet name. So, it's good that we start giving him (Abdullah) the honour," she said.

She said this at a media conference after giving away Hari Raya goodies to orphans and single mothers contributed by the Seputeh Wanita Umno division and Metrojaya Berhad at Mid Valley Megamall, near here

She said such recognition would also enable the foreign community to respect the Prime Minister who only assumed the country's number post recently.

"I don't want outsiders to call him Pak Lah, foreigners should never belittle our leader by calling him Pak Lah...it appears to be disrespectful, for example, the foreign journalists," she said.

-- BERNAMA
SNS AHH AO