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Abdullah demonstrates his flair for painting

MALACCA, Sun. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today demonstrated his painting skills by putting the first strokes on a hand-painted batik banner to promote world peace.

Abdullah used yellow paint to colour the crescent moon and star of the Jalur Gemilang before putting his signature on the cloth banner.

He did this to mark the launch of the "Peace Thru Art - Journey Throughout the World" campaign organised by the World Assembly of Youth (WAY).

The initiative is aimed at creating the longest hand-painted batik banner measuring 3,000 metres in length.

WAY had invited Abdullah to hand-paint a section of the banner in conjunction with the 46th National Day celebrations.

The Peace Thru Art programme will be promoted throughout the country and the banner is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

WAY president Datuk Seri Mohd Ali Rustam said hand-painted batik was chosen for the motif of the programme as art was a universally accepted language that transcended race, colour and creed.

During the event, Abdullah also received a portrait by painters Harun Lat and Amzah Tawil depicting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad raising Abdullah's hand and also portraits of Umno's past leaders. They included Datuk Onn Jaafar, Tengku Abdul Rahman Putra, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn.