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It's an election-oriented exercise, says Hadi

OPPOSITION leader Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang described the Budget as election-oriented, although he said it contained proposed allocations that would benefit the people.

Hadi, who is Pas president and Terengganu Menteri Besar, expressed concern that corporatisation of government agencies, especially Felda, would breed further nepotism and cronyism.

This, he added, was worrying.

DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said Dr Mahathir wanted to prove his credibility to the people through the Budget.

"That is why when you look at the Budget, it is very comprehensive.

"There is even allocation for abandoned projects. Although Dr Mahathir did not say much on how to revive it, I think this is the first time he has addressed the issue.

"Besides this, all issues which have been raised by the people for years are being addressed in this Budget," he said, adding that it was more of a farewell Budget rather than an election Budget.

Parti Keadilan Nasional president Datin Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail said the Budget contained some proposals of the Opposition's 2004 budget (shadow budget).

Dr Wan Azizah, Permatang Pauh MP, said the road tax exemption for motorcycles with capacity of 150cc and less was somewhat similar to the Opposition's proposal for motorcylces with 250cc and lower capacity.

She said the focus on low-cost housing was more or less similar to the programme undertaken when her husband Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was Finance Minister.

She also said that the take-over of abandoned projects should have been undertaken a long time ago.