



HELPING HAND: Yayasan Al-Bukary chief executive officer Datuk Ismail Yusof handing over a mock cheque to Abdullah. With them are Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Bakti member Puan Sri Noora Ashikin Raja Abdullah.

PM: Provide quality education for all

SHAH ALAM, Sat. — There must be greater access to quality education. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today.

This would ensure that there were more skilled and knowledgeable workers to power national development.

Abdullah said quality education should not be available only in certain areas.

"This is why I have called for all schools to be made smart schools as this will enable all students to receive quality education without feeling that they are left behind," he said.

Abdullah said Malaysia needed a good pool of knowledgeable workers.

He said those who were skilled and knowledgeable should not feel they could not contribute to national development just because

they were unemployed. Sooner or later, they would find employment.

"If they fail to secure a job in either the private or government sector, then perhaps they should start their own business.

"One needs to go the extra mile to be successful."

Abdullah was launching a student adoption programme organised by the Association of Wives of Ministers and Deputy Ministers (Baku).

Through the programme, 455 students from poor families were placed under the care of 91 Bakti members.

Each student will receive RM1,500 a year — RM1,000 in cash and the remaining RM500 in tuition fees for special courses.

The students, all in Form Four, will receive the aid for two years.

Several companies handed over donations for the programme to Abdullah at the launch.

Praising Bakti for initiating the programme, Abdullah said it should be emulated by others.

Children from poor homes who excel academically should be assisted to achieve their potential.

"We don't want children with potential to be impeded by financial constraints.

"Giving aid is one aspect of helping students.

What is equally important is that parents should provide their children with the necessary support and good upbringing to help them become good and knowledgeable citizens.

"We not only want our students to be just clever, we also want them to be tactful and highly motivated to be successful."