



GROUNDWORK: Abdul Rahman getting the grave ready with Raskhairi (beside him) and Zaiful a little distance away at the Matang Historical Complex yesterday.

Taiping abuzz with 'homecoming'

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TAIPIING: The "homecoming" of Perak hero Tengku Menteri Ngah Ibrahim has set workers at the Matang Historical Complex here abuzz as they spruce up his final resting ground for his reburial today.

His exhumed remains and those of a freedom fighter Laksamana Mohd Almin Alang arrive in Lumut via *KD Laksamana Mohd Amin* from Singapore this morning.

The remains of Laksamana Amin, who died in 1908, will be laid to rest at the Kuala Kangsar royal mausoleum.

He and Ngah Ibrahim, who died in 1895, were among those implicated in the murder of first-British Resident J.W.W. Birch in 1875.

Unlike previous undertakings, the re-burial, which began on Thursday, had been carried out under the watchful eyes of a village chieftain and Museum and Antiquity Department staff cameras.

Part-time gravedigger Abdul Rahman Hassan, 49, who had been in the job for the past 25 years, assisted by son Raskhairi, 21, and Zaiful Izwan, unearthed bits of porcelain at the Matang site.

They completed their task yesterday despite cave-ins due to the soggy ground.

A row of planks spiked along the brim of the burial pitch, helped to stabilise the grave.

"I have not heard much stories passed down by my elders but now I have something to toll my grandchildren," said Abdul Rahman, a father of eight.

The new grave is about 10m from Ngah Ibrahim's former home which is within the complex.

For the reburial ceremony, about 2,000 people have been invited to the event, scheduled to start at noon today.