

PM wants customs issue to stop

SEREMBAN: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi wants the open accusations between the Customs Department and members of parliament (MPs) to stop.

He said if prolonged, it would create negative reaction, which would not be good for both Customs and the MPs.

"On accusations hurled at each other, this is something that should not continue and should be stopped. That is my message to them as too many things have now been raised," he told reporters after meeting residents of Pangsapuri Rakyat Sri Perdana, Paroi, near here yesterday.

Abdullah was asked to comment on the latest development, which saw some MPs questioning the Customs Department's integrity during the Dewan Rakyat sitting on Monday.

"While members of the Dewan Rakyat are given freedom to speak, whatever that is said 'in Parliament must be based on accurate facts, arguments must be reasonable, discussions must be of high quality, and must be constructive," he said.

The prime minister said he had always stressed to MPs that while they have the freedom to speak, they should focus on issues related to the country, its future and development.

He said they should refrain from discussing cases under judicial review and issues that could hurt the feelings of the people.

Abdullah was also asked to comment on Rhazanah Nasional Bhd emerging as the major shareholder of Pantai Holdings Bhd, following the acquisition of a substantial stake in Pantai from Parkway Holdings Ltd.

"It is a good move taken by Rhazanah," he said.