

Our education system is Islamic, says Pak Lah

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SHAH ALAM: Those who claim that the national education system is not Islamic need only look at the education system today, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"I used to wonder why people said that our educational system wasn't Islamic.

"Then I realised that even though what we taught was suitable and good for people and conformed to religious norms, our education system did not include the study of the Quran until graduation level," he said.

The Education Ministry has since included Quranic studies into the present system.

"Our children are taught to recite the Quran until they have perfected it," he said at a *khatam Quran* (Quran recital graduation) ceremony for 22 primary pupils from all over the country here yesterday.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein was among the audience observing the completion of part of the Education Ministry's JQAF (Jawi, Quran,

Arabic and Fardhu Ain) programme.

The programme, which was Abdullah's brainchild, was implemented last year in about 1,221 selected primary schools throughout the nation.

Abdullah also advised pupils under the JQAF programme to learn Arabic as it would better their understanding and eventual mastery of the Quran.

"The Quran is in Arabic which is not our language and we have to understand it," he added.