

# Govt studying action to be taken on Pantai sale

**KEPALA BATAS:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the Government was studying the necessary action to be taken pertaining to the disposal of a 31 per cent stake in Pantai Holdings Bhd to Singapore-based Parkway Holdings Ltd.

He said the matter was being looked into by the Treasury after realising that it had become a problem as it was related to the concession for the supply of hospital requirements.

"The share sale has become a problem as it involves several matters related to the concession given to Pantai Holdings, that is a contract to supply hospital requirements," he said.

He spoke after launching the Yayasan Budi Penyayang Foundation Day and opening Bank Muamalat Malaysia Bhd's Kepala Batas branch at the Budi Penyayang Complex here today.

He said the Government had always hoped that the equity would remain with Malaysians but unfortunately it had gone into the hands of foreigners.

"The concession has changed hands, and it has gone to other people and (we) hope it would remain with the Malaysian side, and held by Malaysian citizens," he said.

Earlier, news reports said that the former Prime Minister's son, Datuk Mokhzani Mahathir, had sold his shares in Pantai Holdings to Pantai Group chief executive, LimTongYong.

The shares were sold gradually since 2001 and according to the reports, the 31 per cent interest in Pantai Holdings was sold by Mokhzani to Lim and was later sold to Parkway.

Parkway acquired the 31 per cent interest in Pantai Holdings which operates seven hospitals in Malaysia for RM311.58 million in a bid to be the key player in the healthcare industry in the region.

Parkway chairman Richard Seow was reported to have said that the acquisition would enable the company to expand the number of hospitals under its flagship in Malaysia to nine compared to the current two. — Bernama



**Nori Abdullah** applauding, her father after he had painted a stroke on a piece of batik

**Budi Penyayang** Complex in Bertam, Penang.