

# Religious bodies have vital role

The Star - 12/5/2006

**PUTRAJAYA:** Religious bodies and organisations play a vital role in complementing the Government's efforts on human capital development and in promoting unity among the various races in the country, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

He said human capital development was a critical element pushed by the Government for knowledgeable, highly-skilled citizens, who at the same time possessed positive ethics, high values and were progressive.

Reminding the people that good and noble values were the

core strength of each individual, Abdullah said the community would be safer and more peaceful if one practised what one's religion taught one to do.

"Despite differences, all religions possess good and positive universal criteria. All religions teach their followers to practise

good values and possess high personal virtues," he said in his Wesak Day address.

"All religions mould their followers to become humans who love peace, appreciate harmony and want progress."

Abdullah said the Government would continue to promote har-

monious relations between all faiths, with emphasis on social issues, including crime prevention and drug abuse.

"Today, Malaysia is looked upon as an exemplary country because Malaysians from different religions, cultures and ethnic backgrounds enjoy peace

and harmony and live in unity.

"I am pleased to see Malaysians of all races and religions continue to carry on the tradition of sharing and caring which we have been practising. We must appreciate the peace and stability we have been enjoying," he said.