

Fatwa can help develop wakaf land, says Abdullah

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KUALA LUMPUR: The National Fatwa Council should come out with an edict (fatwa) on how wakaf (endowment) land could be developed for income-generating projects, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi proposed.

There might be certain wasiat (wills) which had hampered the development of such land, the Prime Minister added.

"I believe the council can study this problem and determine a fatwa that can serve as a guide despite conditions set by those who donated the land," he said when launching a wakaf development project here yesterday.

The project is a collaboration between the Pilgrims Board, Federal Territory Islamic Affairs Council, TH Technologies Sdn Bhd and Bank Islam.

It involves a 34-storey office building that, when completed in 2010, will be named Menara MAIWP, with Bank Islam as the anchor tenant.

Most wakaf land in the country is currently bequeathed for mosques, surau and as burial grounds.

Abdullah suggested that if a fatwa could not be used, then the meaning of hukum syarak (Islamic ruling) be expanded.

"The room for ijtihad (re-interpretation) by influential people is still open," he said.

Abdullah proposed that developed wakaf land could include both mosque and a commercial building, so that the building could generate income to support the mosque and for charity purposes.

He said there was 36,000ha of endowed land which had yet to be developed throughout the country.

*Mentari Menyinar Bulan Bercahaya
Tanda Gembira Menerima Berita
Pak Lah Bahagia Kami Pun Suka
Selamat Sejahtera Sepanjang Masa*

*A radiant sun, a glowing moon
A blissful sign of good tidings
Pak Lah's gladness is our fortune
Happiness now and never ending*

*Teman Berbicara Bergurau Senda
Wanita Dicitra Puan Jeanne Abdullah
Kepada Allah Kami Berdoa
Bahagia Gembira Bersama Pak Lah*

*A mate with whom to talk and tease
His ladylove is Jeanne Abdullah
Our prayers to Allah for His promise
To give her endless joy with Pak Lah*