

People bring life to cities

Abdullah: Tourists drawn to citizens' warmth

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KUALA LUMPUR: Cities become soulless if they lack dynamic people, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

"Physical development is only one aspect in cities. We have to admit that it is only when the people inject their spirit into the cities through various activities that the cities truly come alive.

"If the people are friendly, warm and well-mannered, tourists will like coming here and it will become popular," he said in his speech at the Federal Territories Day celebrations here yesterday.

Abdullah said the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan were not just administrative centres as they had other facilities such as infrastructure, restaurants, shopping centres and entertainment centres.

"But without dynamic people - these cities with their tall buildings - would only be hollow," he added.

Abdullah also said it was essential to keep the cities clean and safe so that people would enjoy living there.

He pointed out that Malaysia had many beautiful buildings "but we need them to be clean and attractive so that people will enjoy looking at them".

"If the cities' skyscrapers and many buildings are dirty, the cities will not be pleasant. We want foreign tourists to want to come here for visits," he added.

He noted that there were many housing estates and villages in the Federal Territories and advised the municipal councils to ensure that these too were kept clean.

"The councils and the police must make sure that the areas are not only clean but also

peaceful and safe so that the people will feel the benefits of development and progress."

Service in the administration and other sectors too, he added, must be efficient, helpful and people-friendly.

Federal Territories Minister Datuk Zulhasnan Rafique said in his speech that he wanted the people of the three Federal Territories to have an identity and a sense of belonging.

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DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI