

Love yourself, says Pak Lah

Make safety and health your priority, Malaysians urged

KUALA LUMPUR: Love yourself. That was the message Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi emphasised when explaining how important it is for all Malaysians to maintain a healthy and safe environment for its workers.

"Love yourself so that you may continue to be productive. There is untold value in having a healthy body. Most people do not realise the value of having a healthy body until they fall very ill or lose a limb," he said.

Abdullah, who was speaking to some 1,000 people from government agencies and the private sector during the National Occupational Safety and Health awards/ceremony here last night, said it was imperative for employers to make sure their workplaces were safe and clean.

"Malaysia would also be more capable of facing the challenges in growing and building a competitive economy if its workers are healthy and safe."

Abdullah said such workers were

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considered "investments" as they were the product of a family's or the Government's investment in educating and training a person so that they would be productive and get a good job.

"Just imagine if your most skilled, knowledgeable and productive worker meets with an accident because of poor safety and health measures. This would be a huge loss to your organisation," he said.

"It would be an even bigger loss if he died," he said, adding that it was important for both employers and employees to make safety and health their priority.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn, who was also present, said enforcement efforts would be stepped up in the areas of agriculture, construction and small- and medium-scale enterprises with the target of reducing accident rates by 20% by 2010.

Later, Abdullah presented awards to a multitude of companies from across 17 categories which ranked tops in their occupational health and safety efforts.



Medical care: Abdullah (left) together with Dr Fong and Socso medical and rehabilitation general manager Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed helping to put on a prosthetic arm for Mohamed Hamid Hamedi, 27, from Pahang. Mohamed Hamid lost his arm in an accident at his workplace and the arm was part of the aid he received from Socso.