

# PM unveils plaque of honour in parliament

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** A wooden plaque bearing the names of 1,600 MPs and ministers, past and present, was unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi in Parliament House yesterday.

The plaque made of Nyatoh wood, measures 40ft long, and the names were carved under the supervision of Universiti Teknologi Mara's School of Art and Design.

"We have all the names, starting from our first Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman right up to the current

Datuk Seri (Abdullah Ahmad Badawi)," said Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib.

"During our first term, we only had 103 members.

"Now, we have 209 members, including our longest-serving member, Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud, who has been with us since 1971," he added.

In a separate function earlier, the prime minister received RM2,000 worth of hand-made lapel pins made to mark the country's 50th independence anniversary, from the Culture, Arts and Heritage Ministry.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi looking at the names of MPs from 1959 to 2007 listed on the plaque. At right is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

These pins, embedded with gemstones, are called the Jalur Gemilang Stone Lapel Pin.

Another 300 enamel lapel

pins, worth RM200 each, were made for ministers and MPs.

Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the pins were de-

signed to reflect the feeling of oneness with the country and as a sign of respect for the Merdeka celebrations this year.

"We hope to see them (ministers and MPs) wear the pins every time parliament is in session to show that Malaysia is close to their hearts."