

Pak Lah: Malay students not weak in academic performance

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KEPALA BATAS: The academic weakness among Malay students may have something to do with the quality of their school's teaching and learning process, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said this was evident in certain schools, especially in rural areas.

But he added there were students from rural areas who excelled in their studies, proving there were quality teaching and learning in their schools.

Abdullah said that previously there was hardly a Malay student whose name and photograph appeared in newspapers when the SPM results were announced.

"Now, we see more Malay students scoring 1As. This shows that Malay students are not weak in their academic performance," he said at the prize presentation ceremony for high achievers in the UPSR, PMR and SPM examinations at the Institut Latihan Perindustrian here yesterday.

At the function, Siti Fatimah Mukhtar, who scored 18As in the SPM, was awarded the Federation of Malay Students Union (GPMS) Top Malay Student award and RM5,000.

The daughter of a bank officer said she would save the money for her education.

Nadiah Amirah Jamil, who scored 16As, was appointed GPMS academic ambassador.

She presented the first copy of her book, *Diari Nadiah*, to be autographed by the Prime Minister.

The book is due to be released at the end of the month while her second book *Meniti*

Kecemerlangan should be out by the middle of the year.

Abdullah was at the institute to launch the YAB Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi football championship.

A total sponsorship of RM350,500 was presented by Ad Multi Resources Sdn Bhd and

Opals Sdn Bhd for the championship.

The one-day event will be held at 10 venues in Kepala Batas on July 7.

The final will be held at the Bertam mini-stadium.

Over 100 teams from all over the country have registered for the championship.