

Think green, says PM

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Developers urged to pay heed to conscious planning

PUTRAJAYA: Be more environment-friendly and think safety, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told developers and builders.

The Prime Minister said it was crucial to preserve the environment.

Unfortunately, he added, human beings have inflicted massive damage to the environment to the extent of polluting rivers and affecting water quality.

Lamenting on the "lack of conscious planning" in development, Abdullah said homes and buildings were constantly being built without due consideration to the environment.

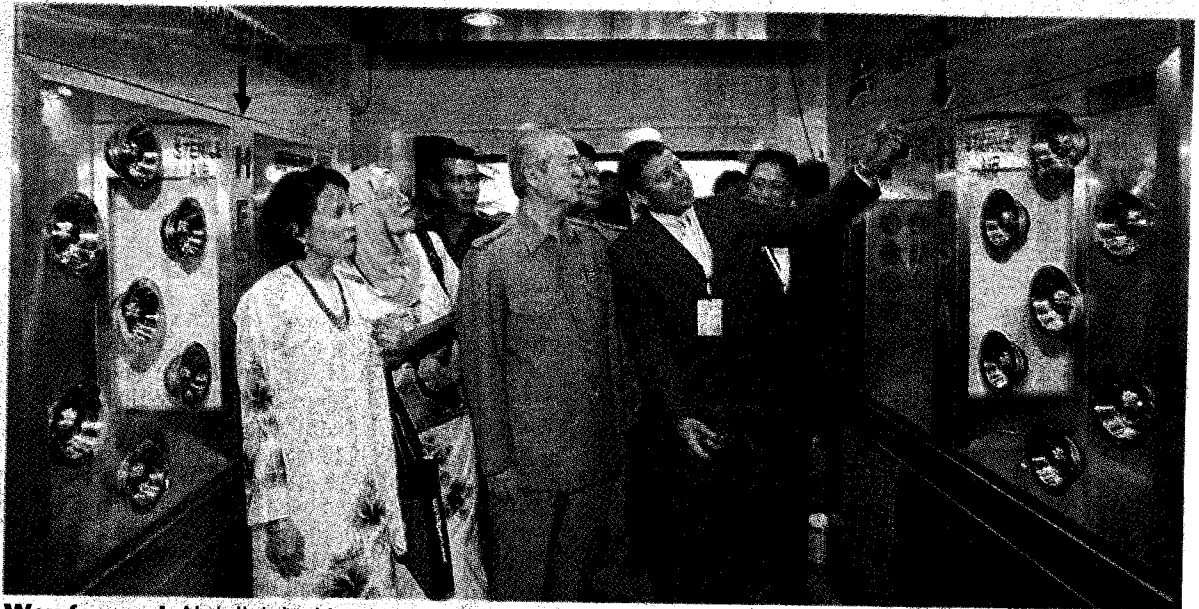
They were also not friendly to the surroundings and the land, he said when launching the Green Building Mission, a programme organised by Puspanita (the association of women officers and wives of officers in the civil service), here yesterday.

The Prime Minister was also disappointed that millions of ringgit had to be spent on restoring damaged infrastructure such as drains due to bad maintenance and public apathy.

"The money could have been put to good use financing other programmes, especially to give more educational opportunities to the young.

"Instead, we have to spend on this. It is a waste that we can do without," he said.

Abdullah reminded Malaysians of the building practices of their forefathers, when houses along riverbanks were constructed on stilts to avoid floodwaters.



Way forward: Abdullah looking at an air shower model after launching the Green Building Mission Programme yesterday. Beside him is Puspanita president Puan Sri Wan Noorlina Wan Hussin (left).

The Prime Minister also encouraged Malaysians to grow more plants, not only in public areas but also in their gardens.

"In fact, we can take the suggestion by (Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin that we should all have an edible garden where, instead of flower and potted plants, we plant vegetables like lady's finger and chilli," he said.

Abdullah said it was time for architects to consider the types of materials used to build houses to ensure they did not pose any danger to health.

"For instance, people no longer want to live in *attap* houses but choose asbestos material without knowing the negative side effects to their health," he said.

Under its mission, themed *Green Building, Building Green*, Puspanita hopes to encourage in all development projects:

- Sustainable site planning;
- Water and energy efficiency;
- Conservation of materials and resources;
- Indoor environmental quality, and
- Innovation in design.

Later, at the *tahlil* (prayers) cere-

mony in conjunction with the bicentenary of the police force at the Bukit Aman mosque in Kuala Lumpur, Abdullah said the task of policing to maintain peace and security was *fardu kifayah* or an obligation that had to be fulfilled by a community in accordance with the principles of Islam Hadhari, reports Bernama.

Abdullah, who is Internal Security Minister, said every government had to undertake the task of maintaining peace.

He said Islam encouraged an individual to take up the job of a policeman because the duty called for the maintenance of peace in the country.