

Nazrin 'people-centred' prince, says Abdullah

PANTAI REMIS: Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday praised the Raja Muda of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah, as a "people-centred prince" who has the people's interests at heart, and gives priority to development and public well-being.

The prime minister said he had on several occasions spoken to Raja Nazrin and the prince had given his attention to development and the people's welfare.

"I've spoken to him on various issues ... indeed, he is a prince who gives attention to matters

related to development and the people's welfare, especially in Perak," he said when commenting on Raja Nazrin's decision to decline the use of state government funds for his wedding on Thursday.

Raja Nazrin, the eldest child of the Sultan of Perak, Sultan Azlan Shah, and Raja Permaisuri Tuanku Bainun, will marry Zara Salim Davidson, 34, a chemical engineer, at Istana Iskandariah in Bukit Chandan, Kuala Kangsar.

Abdullah was speaking at a press conference after taking part in two community service projects at Kampung Tanjung Burung in Ujung Pasir here and Kampung Batu 4 in Segari, near Pantai Remis organised by the Barisan Nasional Backbenchers' Club.

Perak Mentri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali had said on Saturday he appreciated the private nature and graciousness of Raja Nazrin in declining the offer by the state to provide funds for the royal

wedding.

Instead, Raja Nazrin asked the state to spend the money on development projects for the people's needs, he said.

Tajol Rosli said the Raja Muda also said all expenses relating to his wedding, and a dinner for the general public, would be borne by him.

At the site of the gotong-royong project to build a house in Kampung Batu 4, Abdullah said BN elected representatives must work hard for the public without thinking too much of whether they will be retained or dropped in the next general election.

He said if they spent too much time thinking about this, development programmes planned for the people would be affected.

"What's important at the moment is for them to think of how to honour the responsibility entrusted to them," Abdullah said. - Bernama



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