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Uphold our caring culture, says Abdullah

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KEPALA BATAS: The prime minister wants the spirit of *muafakat* (co-operation) and caring to prevail as a culture among all Malaysians.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in his Hari Raya Aidiladha message to thousands of Muslims here yesterday, said only then would the country achieve permanent peace and stability.

"This is what the government has chosen for a long time and practised continuously until today."

Abdullah said if the people remained co-operative and caring, there would be no finger-pointing which could lead to ill feeling and discomfort in society.

He said any differences were best settled through consultation.

Abdullah said: "We must respect each other's views to achieve an amicable solution to any problems. This, too, has always been our culture."

"I am sure that if all Malaysians adopt this culture, we will continue to live in peace and stability."

"Our people will benefit from it and the country will continue to prosper," he said in Kampung Tok Bedu here.

Earlier, Abdullah, who is the member of parliament for Kepala Batas, urged Muslims to make sacrifices as part of their faith.

He said the act of making sacrifices was not just about slaughtering animals for distribution to the needy during Aidiladha nor to hold feasts among the kampung folk.

"There are many other ways to



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi giving away sacrificial meat to Mohd Danial Hakim, 4, who was accompanied by his mother Salmah Isa, 46, at the compound of Abdullah's home in Kepala Batas yesterday in conjunction with Aidiladha celebrations. On the left is Abdullah's wife Datin Paduka Seri Jeanne Abdullah.

do it. It can be done by donating cash or kind or even by allocating time to good causes," he said at a sacrificial ceremony organised by DiGi Telecommunications at Rumah Sejarah here.

Abdullah, who was accompanied by his wife Datin Paduka Seri Jeanne Abdullah, performed prayers at the Masjid Al-Jamiul Badawi here with about 1,000 worshippers.

He also attended a *tahlil* and visited the graves of his parents

and grandfather in the mosque compound.

At the function, DiGi and others donated more than 200 head of cattle, goats and camels for slaughter and distribution to mosques, surau, government departments and non-governmental organisations in the constituency.

Abdullah reminded Muslims that charitable deeds need not be confined to the Aidiladha celebrations.

"It can be made at any time," he said citing the assistance provided to flood victims to evacuate and move their belongings and looking after their needs and welfare as one example.

"I am thankful that the people here in Kepala Batas are sensitive and are ever willing to help the needy at all times," he said, adding that he was confident that should the floods occur in his constituency, the people would extend whatever help they could.

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