

Strive to be among best cities, says PM

NST- 2/2/2008

■ **By Minderjeet Kaur**
news@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The prime minister yesterday said he wanted the federal territories, especially Kuala Lumpur, to be among the best cities in the world.

To achieve this, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, the cities needed to be clean, safe and peaceful.

"We, the people of the federal territories, especially Kuala Lumpur, must do our part to ensure it is clean, peaceful and among the best in the world," he said when launching the Federal Territories Day celebrations at the Kuala Lumpur football stadium in Cheras last night.

Abdullah said he had instructed the police to intensify efforts to wipe out crime in the territories, especially Kuala Lumpur.

He said the government wanted all three territories — Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and Labuan — to prosper further.

"We want city folk to be healthy and happy. And to achieve that, they must be

proud of the city and strive to make the federal territories clean."

Touching on the government's efforts to eradicate hardcore poverty, he said these efforts were not merely being concentrated in rural areas but also urban centres.

Last night's two-hour celebration was attended by about 10,000 people.

It began with Abdullah, his wife Datin Paduka Seri Jeanne Abdullah, Federal Territories Minister Datuk Seri Zulhasnan Rafique and his wife Datin Seri Siti Nooriah Ana Razak making a grand entrance in a horse-drawn carriage.

The event, which also marks the 34th anniversary of Kuala Lumpur's status as a city, saw about 5,600 participants representing schools, government agencies and the private sector in an hour-long parade past the grandstand.

Some of the loudest cheers went to the National Paralympic Council and the police.

The event also saw a 10-minute fireworks display and dance performances.



A troupe from Kuala Lumpur performing a fiery dance during the Federal Territories Day celebration last night.