

# Pak Lah: Make Islamic financing more attractive

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former Prime Minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has urged financial institutions to expand the role of Islamic banking.

He said many Muslims still could not see the difference between conventional and Islamic banking, and for some it did not seem attractive.

"Such a perception is not without basis," he said in his speech yesterday during the launch of the seminar "The Impact of the Islamic Financial System in Malaysia on the Economic Strength of the Ummah".

Abdullah urged financial institutions to study the sunnah and the philosophy of Islamic finance to further improve their services.

"Islamic financing institutions are seen as still having features of the conventional system.

"Some Muslims think that the only difference is that the word "loan" in the conventional system is changed to "financing" for the Islamic system," he said.

Abdullah added they should not only offer loans or finance packages but also entrepreneurial services.

"Although Islamic banking needs to compete with conventional banking, it should find its own strength and specific market based on the syariah to benefit Muslims," he said.

Abdullah added Islamic financing could also support high technology sectors to help the country.