

Memorial park for Pak Lah to be built in Kepala Batas

KEPALA BATAS: The Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Memorial will be built in the Vision Park area here, as a tribute to the late fifth prime minister for his character, leadership, contributions and service to the nation, said National Unity Minister Datuk Aaron Ago Dagang.

"The Madani government, through the ministry, will provide full support and cooperation to the National Archives of Malaysia to realise the construction of this memorial, which will stand as a symbol of Tun Abdullah's legacy for future generations.

"The land has already been provided, and we are thankful to the Penang government for making it available in the Vision Park area in Kepala Batas.

"The next step will involve planning, design and applying for the necessary allocation for construction. This process will take some time before the memorial can be built."

He was speaking after opening a commemorative event, *Mengenang Negarawan Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi: Bapa Pembangunan Madal Insan* yesterday.

Earlier, media reports quoted Penang Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow as saying that the state government had allocated a Q.8ha plot of land in Vision Park for the memorial.

Aaron said Abdullah's wide-ranging contributions in politics, administration, human development and national unity had left a lasting impact on the well-being of the people.

He said among the late prime minister's notable initiatives were the establishment of the Malaysian Integrity Institute, the National Cancer



Aaron, accompanied by National Unity Deputy Minister Sarawathy Kandasami, at the commemorative event in Kepala Batas yesterday. - **MASRY CHE ANI/THESUN**

Institute, the strengthening of the Anti-Corruption Agency (now known as the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission) as well as the introduction of Islam *Hadhari*, which emphasised a balance between physical development and human capital.

"In his efforts to strengthen national unity, he also placed great importance on inter-racial and inter-religious harmony. He consistently urged Malaysians to appreciate cultural diversity and

embrace it as a source of national strength."

The event was organised by the National Archives of Malaysia in conjunction with Malaysia Day, Bernama reported.

It featured talks by Bertam Assemblyman Datuk Seri Reezal Merican Naina Merican and Malaysian Islamic Understanding Institute deputy chairman Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Mohd Yusof Othman, and a "My Father's Story" session delivered by Abdullah's daughter, Nori Abdullah.