

**Promote "Open House" Culture - Abdullah Badawi
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KEPALA BATAS, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today urged the people to promote the culture of holding "open house" to further strengthen racial unity.

He said the holding of open house led to the development of the people and nation through the sharing of common religious values.

"All festivals, including Aidilfitri, emphasise peace and foster feelings of goodwill regardless of race, culture and belief," the Kepala Batas MP told reporters at his Aidilfitri open house at the Budi Penyayang complex attended by about 2,000 people. Also present was his wife, Tun Jeanne Abdullah.

Abdullah said festivals should not be confined to entertainment but should, more importantly, focus on sending out the message on the peace and goodwill that went into their organisation.

He said the open house tradition could help the people discard any prejudice they might have of one another.

"Aidilfitri is a celebration not only for the Muslims. In fact, it has become the norm for the festival to be celebrated by all Malaysians, including non-Muslims," he said.

Penang Yang Dipertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas and his wife Toh Puan Majimor Shariff as well as political party leaders were among those who attended the open house.

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