

OIC working out aid for Palestinians, says PM

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PANGKOR: The Organisation of the Islamic Conference will help Palestinians alleviate their suffering, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

The Prime Minister said the organisation was working out the type of assistance to be given. Malaysia is the current chairman of the OIC.

The Palestinian government,

which is controlled by Hamas, has been financially crippled because of Israel's reluctance to release funding meant for it.

"We will help in whatever way within our means and abilities," he told reporters after the groundbreaking ceremony for Global HiQ, a biotechnology-based hatch-

ery here yesterday.

Abdullah hoped the West, especially the United States, would change their stand on Hamas.

"They should respect the wishes of the Palestinians, who elected Hamas. Don't penalise them for voting in the government of their choice," he added.

Abdullah later witnessed the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Golden Hope Food and Beverages Sdn Bhd and the Agriculture Department at Sungai Wangi near Sitiawan.

Under the agreement, Golden Hope will become the anchor company to undertake the processing of pink guava

cultivated by contract farmers.

The farmers will be trained and guided by research and development by the company.

Abdullah said more companies should implement such programmes because it would help increase the income of farmers.