

It's Khairy's

right, says PM

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KEPALA BATAS: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday Umno Youth deputy chief Khairy Jamaluddin has the right to sell his shares in investment firm and stockbroker ECM Libra Avenue Bhd.

He said Khairy had told him that he was selling his shares because he did not want the company to face problems with his presence as a minority shareholder.

"It's his right. The shares are his, not mine. I don't have anything to comment. He just told me that, that's all," he told reporters after launching the Yayasan Budi Penyayang Foundation Day and opening Bank Muamalat Malaysia Berhad's Kepala Batas branch at

the Budi Penyayang Complex here.

Abdullah was commenting on news reports which said that Khairy, his son-in-law, had sold off his 10.2 million shares, representing 1.25% equity in ECM Libra.

He, however, refused to comment when asked his opinion of a minister's comment that former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is out to overthrow him from the prime minister's post.

"I do not want to comment on that," he said.

Commenting on claims that the Penang state government had failed to take care of Malay interests in the state, Abdullah said it was wrong of the Malay community to think so.

"It is not right for them to say that the state government is not

doing anything for the Malay community," he said.

"But if they say it is insufficient, then perhaps they could be right."

He said the dissatisfaction among the Malay community could be because the state government had not met their expectations.

Abdullah said that although some projects for the Malay community have not started because of a shortage of resources, development must continue as best possible.

"As for the issue on wakaf land, the federal government has allocated RM40 million to develop wakaf lands which is aplenty in Penaga and George Town," he said.

He said those are valuable lands which could be used for development that will benefit the community.

On the war in Lebanon, Abdullah said he hoped the United Nations resolution on Friday would lead to a permanent ceasefire in Lebanon.

"Although the resolution is not what Lebanon wanted, I hope the enforcement of the resolution would lead to a permanent ceasefire," he said.

In Bagan Serai, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday Abdullah's position would not be easily threatened by anyone, as long as he received the strong support from all levels in Umno.

"In my view, his position is not easily threatened by anyone," he said at a news conference after officiating the Bagan Serai Umno division delegates meeting.

Batik painter Abdullah tries his hand at batik painting at the Budi Penyayang Complex in Kepala Batas. Second from left is his daughter Nori.

