

Penang has aided Malays

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But existing help isn't enough, says Abdullah

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KEPALA BATAS: It is wrong for anyone to claim that the Gerakan-led Penang state government is not helping the Malays, says Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister, however, said the existing help rendered by the state government to the Malays was inadequate.

Abdullah said the state government must study all proposals made by the Malay community in the state so that their interests would be protected.

"Some of the proposals cannot be implemented due to a lack of resources but they must try to carry out the development as far as possible," he told newsmen after opening the Founder's Day of Yayasan Budi Penyayang at its centre here yesterday.

The inaugural event was dedicated to the foundation's founder and Abdullah's wife, the late Datin Paduka Seri Endon Mahmood.

Abdullah said the Federal Government had allocated RM40mil to develop *tanah wakaf* (endowed land) in Penang.

"The land must be developed properly to derive the maximum returns since it is of high value," he added.

In his speech, Abdullah said Endon spent long hours overseeing charity projects despite suffering from cancer.

"She went through a hectic pace and was in pain, but she was a fighter," he said.

Abdullah said his wife spent much time promoting *batik* and *songket* to Malaysians and the world over, successfully holding *batik* promotions in England, the Netherlands, Italy and Singapore.

"Now, perhaps Nori and her friends will continue the work to promote *batik* to other countries," he said, referring to his daughter, who is the chairman of Yayasan Budi Penyayang.

Later, Abdullah opened a gallery dedicated to Endon, which is located on the first floor of the Penyayang building.



ARTISTIC TOUCH: Abdullah and his daughter Nori (on his right) showing their skill at batik painting after he opened the Founder's Day of Yayasan Budi Penyayang at the foundation's centre in Kepala Batas yesterday. Behind Nori is Penang Chief Minister Tan Sri Koh Tsu Koon.