



Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah (seated, third from right) chatting with Orang Asli pupils at the Simpang Pulai Orang Asli Excellent Education Centre in Kampung Kerawat, Ipoh, yesterday. With them are Raja Nazrin's consort, Tuanku Zara Salim (left), and Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (seated, second from right).

Kumpulan Semesta official freed of graft

SHAH ALAM: An assistant manager of Kumpulan Semesta Sdn Bhd was freed of graft charge yesterday.

Sessions Court judge Mat Ghani Abdullah acquitted Abd Wahab Nordin, 55, without his defence being called on a charge of soliciting RM3,000 from Mohd Shafiq Idrus, a sand mining operator, as an inducement to process his (Shafiq's) application which would enable him to carry out sand-mining activities in Sepang.

Wahab was alleged to have committed the offence at the Kajang Maybank branch in Jalan Tukang, Kajang, on Sept 18, 2009.

In acquitting Wahab, Mat Ghani said the prosecution had failed to prove a prima facie case against the father of three.

Deputy public prosecutor Siti Zakiyah Che Man prosecuted while counsels Imran Hadzalie Abd Hamid and Salim Bashir represented Wahab.

'Include the Orang Asli in development'

By P. Chandra Sagar
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IPOH: Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah said it would be a failure of the government if 25 years from now, the Orang Asli still practise their traditional way of life and were left out in the mainstream of development.

"There must a concerted effort, making it compulsory to have a programme which focuses on safeguarding and upgrading the socio-economic interest of the 140,000 Orang Asli in the country.

"From now, the Orang Asli community must be seen with a new image, standing tall and proud with other races to build one nation and one community," he said at the opening of the Simpang Pulai Orang Asli Excellent Education Centre in Kampung Kerawat here yesterday.

Also present were Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, MHC Plantations Bhd managing director Datuk Mah King Thian and Perak Orang Asli Foundation chairman Datuk Suki Mee.

The centre was built by the MHC at a cost of RM400,000.

Raja Nazrin said development programmes for the Orang Asli must be carried out in a systematic manner by involving them and listening to their views and problems.

"They must be given an active role to play at the beginning stage itself such as the collection of data, planning and also implementation. Plans should not be drawn up based on

“FROM NOW, THE ORANG ASLI COMMUNITY MUST BE SEEN WITH A NEW IMAGE, STANDING TALL AND PROUD WITH OTHER RACES TO BUILD ONE NATION AND ONE COMMUNITY.”

— Raja Dr Nazrin Shah
Raja Muda of Perak

assumptions which might result in wastage and failure.”

He suggested that the state government introduce a policy on corporate social responsibility for companies which operated their businesses in the vicinity of Orang Asli settlements to provide annual allocations and assistance to help the community in the modernisation process.

Raja Nazrin commended MHC Plantation Bhd and the Perak Orang Asli Foundation for setting up the centre.

Zambry said the state government would continue to provide assistance to the Orang Asli community to ensure they were included in the mainstream of development and all programmes would be implemented to empower them.

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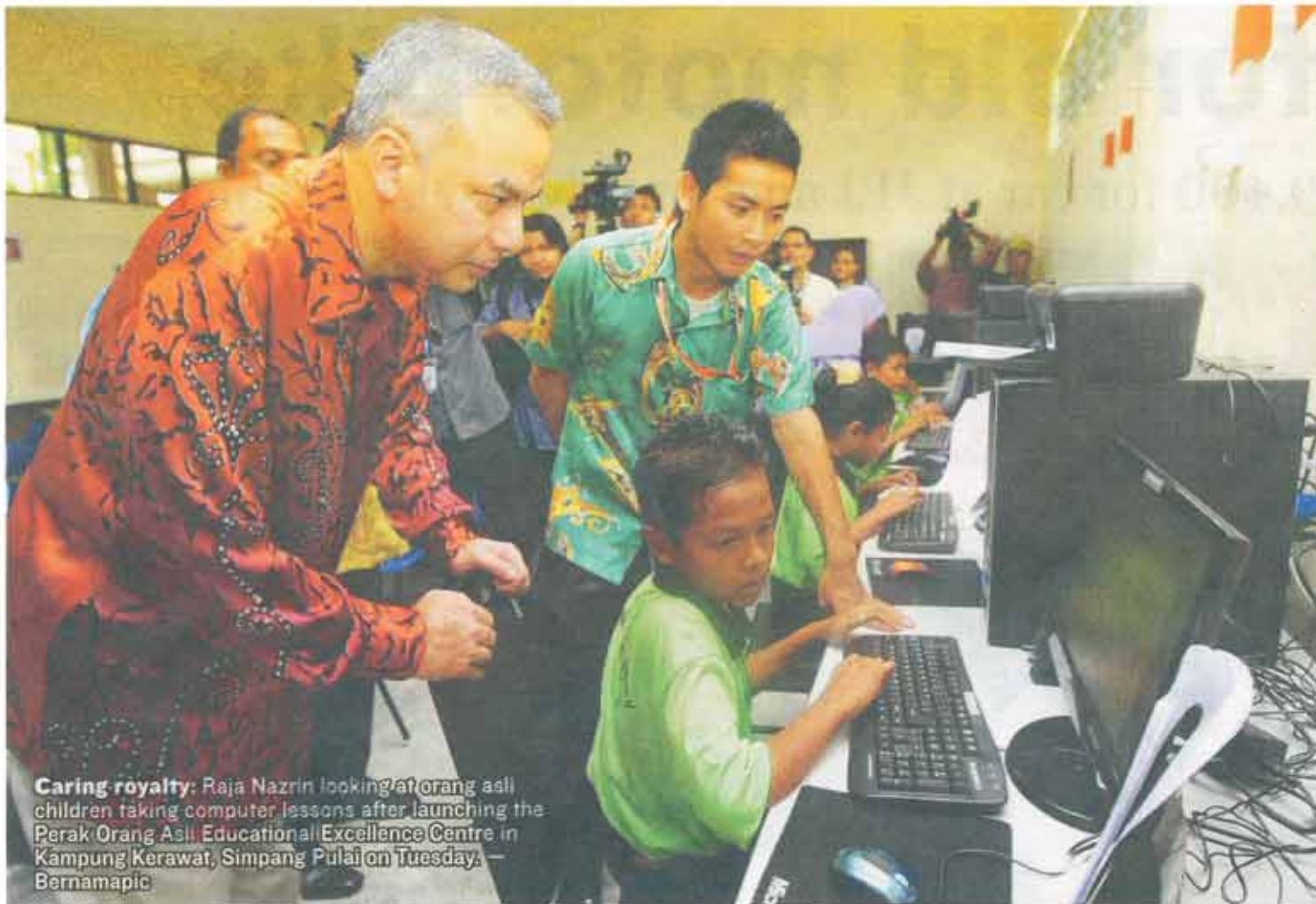


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Caring royalty: Raja Nazrin looking at orang asli children taking computer lessons after launching the Perak Orang Asli Educational Excellence Centre in Kampung Kerawat, Simpang Pulai on Tuesday. — Bernamapic

'Do more for orang asli'

Perak Regent says views of community must be considered





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MALAYSIA would be deemed a failure if the orang asli community are still residing in backwater conditions 25 years from now.

Raja Muda of Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah said it should be every Malaysian's resolution to help modernise the orang asli community.

"The orang asli community should be given a new facelift to enable them to stand shoulder to shoulder with the other communities in Malaysia," he said during the launch of the Perak Orang Asli Educational Excellence Centre in Kampung Kerawat, Simpang Pulai, on Tuesday.

"They should be able to stand tall, to move forward proudly, succeeding and to build the nation together with the other races," he added.

He noted that there were about 140,000 orang asli in Malaysia and 54,416 or 39% of them are in Perak.

The Regent said the views of the orang asli should be considered when planning development programmes for them.

"The orang asli should also be given a platform to voice their opinions," Raja Nazrin said, adding that the orang asli should be given the chance to be actively involved during the implementation of the programmes.

Raja Nazrin said the Government have set a realistic target to achieve zero poverty among the orang asli community by 2020.

"With the right focus and commitment, the target can be achieved earlier," he said.

"It can also be achieved faster with the help of non-governmental organisations and the private sector," he added.

He also said the Perak government should set a policy to have all private companies operating near orang asli villages to perform their corporate social responsibility (CSR) by providing yearly allocations to the community.

The Perak Orang Asli Educational Excellence Centre is a resource centre, sponsored by MHC Plantations Bhd to serve the educational needs of the orang asli community in Kampung Kerawat, Kampung Sinju, Kampung Sejam, Pos Raja and Kampung Pawong.

The centre, complete with computers, library, classroom and kindergarten, will be run by the Perak Orang Asli Foundation.

WHAT'S UP

www.thestar.com.my

Green concert

A green concert will be held at Juru Auto-City at 7pm on Saturday. The artistes taking part include Z-Chen, Liu Li Yang and Manhand. There will also be a hip-hop dance, mudball making, garbage enzyme making, tree planting, seminar and children's drawing competition. For details, call 012-4700571 or 012-4768969.

Korean carnival

The Penang United Taekwondo Society will be organising the 1st Korean Carnival, Tae-kwondo championship and Photograph contest at Sunshine Square, Bayan Baru. The opening ceremony is on Saturday at 5pm. For details, call Gerad at 012-4526140 or Jane at 012-4350383.

Health screening

There will be a free health screening for blood pressure check, BMI, blood glucose, cholesterol check, urine test and counselling at the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) and northern region branch and Lions-NKF dialysis centre at 16, Jalan Bawasah, George Town on Saturday from 9am to 1pm. There will also be a talk on diabetes at 10am by Dr Ong Loke Meng and cake decoration demonstration at 11am. For registration, call Miss Chee at 04-2101555 or Miss Ailin Lim at 04-2101557 or log on to www.nkf.org.my.

Health talk

There will a health talk on 'Old is Perpetually Gold' by consultant neurologist and physician Dr S. Sathindren at the Loh Guan Lye Specialist Centre in Penang from 2pm to 4pm on Saturday. Admission is free.

Meeting fans

Jason Hsu, the former boyband member of 5566 will take part in a show in conjunction with the Malaysia Penang Travel Fair at the Penang International Sports Arena on Saturday between 4pm and 7pm. He will also meet his fans to promote tourism, gourmet and shopping in Taiwan. For details, call Alving Cheong at 019-3221085.

Musical

The students of Penang Free School will present 'The King and I' musical at Dewan Sri Pinang on Sunday at 8pm. The guest-of-honour is Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas. For tickets or enquiries, call the school at 04-2815814 or Malini Ganapathy at 012-4315410.

Blood donation

The Hui Yin Seh Metta blood donation group will hold a blood donation drive at Hui Yin Seh in Jalan Air Itam, Penang, from 9am to 1pm on Sunday. For details, call Thum at 016-4980139.

Dance lessons

Join the Penang YMCA Ballroom Dance Club and enjoy free ballroom dance lessons for three months. The lessons will start on Sunday from 8pm to 9pm at YMCA Hall. For details, call Ooi Hun Teong at 012-4524096 or Richard Kang at 012-4717297.

Public health talk

A talk entitled 'Consuming the correct type of Vitamin E is important' will be held at the Caring Society Complex in Penang from 2pm to 5pm on July 17. For enquiries, call Kit Lam at 016-4110301 or e-mail to cocosilk.my@gmail.com.