

Couples run into trouble over huge wedding bills

MOST of the people who faced problems within two years of their marriage had borrowed large sums of money to foot their wedding bills, reported *Utusan Malaysia*.

According to a study by Universiti Putra Malaysia Human Ecology Faculty, 37% of the 549 people surveyed complained of money problems within the first two years of their marriage.

UPM Assoc Prof Dr Rumaya Juhari's research revealed that couples failed to plan their finances for the future and were following a worrying trend of borrowing money for their wedding.

"I am worried about couples who owe up to between RM25,000 and RM35,000 just to pay for a wedding reception which lasts only for a day or two," she said.

Newlyweds, she said, should be enjoying a "honeymoon" phase in the first two years of their marriage but were instead plagued by financial worries.

"Mistakes in managing money could threaten the relationship between husband and wife, ultimately causing the marriage to break apart," she said.

Dr Rumaya advised those planning to get married to discuss with

their in-laws to ensure that the wedding costs fall within their means.

> *Berita Harian* reported that 30 children from an orphanage in Rawang were recently given the chance to spend a night at a museum in a programme organised after the Ben Stiller-helmed comedy.

The programme, held at the Malay Heritage Museum in UPM, Serdang, was named after the 2006 movie, which saw Stiller playing a night watchman who encountered various characters that came to life once the place was closed.

Organised by Universiti Putra Malaysia Modern Languages and

Communication Faculty, the children from the Rumah Baitu Fitrah orphanage were introduced to activities, such as traditional Malay music and dance, rubber tapping and even how to light a fire from a tinder box.

Museum director Prof Madya Dr Muhammad Pauzi Abd Latif said the inaugural programme was held to revive its function as an exhibition centre as well as a place for youth activities.

"UPM wishes to transform the museum into a living museum, allowing visitors to experience spending the night and participate in all sorts of activities," he said.