



**Thursday September 7, 2006**  
**Museum dept found wanting**

THE OVERALL management of the Museum Department's collection is not satisfactory, said the Auditor General's Report. Areas that the report highlighted as being in need of more attention included assessing proposals to purchase ethnological artefacts, conducting physical examination of the collection and filling vacancies in the department by hiring staff with proper academic background in museum management. From 2003 to 2005, the Museum Department had been allocated RM3.42mil for managing its collection, of which RM3.4mil was spent. This was 6.08% from the total allocation for the Museum Department, which was RM56.27mil for the period. For the purchase of ethnological artefacts, the audit found only 233 of 537 artefacts to be confirmed as being purchased, but there was no record to show how the remaining artefacts had been obtained. The report also stated that of the 1,242 items in the museum's collection, 715 had not been listed manually while 1,034 items were not listed in the Museum Department's Integrated System (SISTEM). The Auditor General found that the Registration Department also emphasised ethnological artefacts, as from 2002 to 2005 the Registration Department had registered 22,339 artefacts in SISTEM out of the 31,518 artefacts, but 94% of the 403,589 archaeological artefacts had not been registered.