Useful skill: Rosmah trying her hand at baking bread sausage with the help of 15-year-old Permata Perkasa participant Muhammad Afiq Syahmi Radzi after the opening ceremony of the community centre at Perumahan Awam Desa Rejang.

Kuala Lumpur: The approach adopted by Permata and Permata Perkasa Community Centres is apt and in-line with the Government’s aspiration to produce independent teenagers capable of contributing to society, said the Prime Minister’s wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor.

Rosmah, who is also patron of the Permata programme, said such an approach could indirectly turn problem teenagers into people with potential.

She said 565 teenagers voluntarily attended basic skill classes such as cake-making, photography, make-up, grooming, vocal and music at the centres in the People’s Housing Projects at Sri Pantai and Pantai Ria, Pantai Dalam when they were opened in 2010.

“In a period of five years, 3,242 teenagers and youths have benefited from these classes,” she said when opening the Permata Perkasa Remaja Community Centre at Perumahan Awam Desa Rejang in Setapak Jaya here yesterday.

Rosmah said the programme was a success because it had inspired teenagers to venture into small businesses like becoming part-time photographers and make-up and grooming artists.

The Permata Perkasa Community Centre is a pilot project carried out with Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) under the Permata programme.

The latest activity introduced at the community centres is English language classes handled by Permata Interact and the British Council on the initiative of Rosmah’s daughter, Nooryana Najwa Najib.

There is also the “Homework Club”, conducted with the cooperation of UKM students, to help secondary school students with their homework.

The Permata Perkasa Community Centre in Desa Rejang began operations in October with 200 teenagers.

Setiawangsa MP Datuk Ahmad Fauzi Zahari, UKM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Noor Azlan Ghazali and Nooryana Najwa attended the opening ceremony. — Bernama