

'REMEMBER SPIRIT OF INDEPENDENCE'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad tonight called on the people to remember the spirit of the Independence fighters and to follow their example.

He said past leaders had completed their task and it was now left to present day leaders to continue the fight to ensure that democracy, independence and prosperity lasted forever.

Dr Mahathir who was speaking at the launching of the *Merdeka Book of Records 1986* here tonight, said the country was celebrating the National Day not because it was compulsory but because it was a way to remind the people that the country and race were under colonial rule for 400 years.

"The spirit and courage of the fighters cannot be forgotten just like that.

Chronicling progress

"Their fighting spirit should instead continue to burn in us and the lives of future generations," he said.

He said the people should also remember the services of past leaders, including those who fought for Independence before World War II, such as Datuk Bahaman, Datuk Nanning, Datuk Janggut, Rosli Dobi and Mat Salleh.

The *Merdeka Day Record Book*, the second such edition, chronicles the happenings since Malaysia gained Independence and the programmes of previous National Day celebrations.

Dr Mahathir said the book was of historical importance and could be used as reference material for the younger generation while tourists could also have a glimpse of the Malaysian lifestyle.

He hoped the book would catch everyone's attention, especially that of the young, so the spirit of Independence would remain.

Dr Mahathir also said the names of the companies which were successful in competitions were also recorded in the book and this was the Government's recognition of their contribution towards development and progress in the nation.

He said the private sector participation was in line with the Malaysia Incorporated concept of establishing a strong, meaningful and effective co-operation between the private and public sectors.

He also expressed satisfaction with the support of the private sector towards competitions although the economic situation last year was far from satisfactory, and hoped that with the improving economy, the competitions would receive more support.

This year's winners were: Petronas (for highest income tax payers), Harrisons Malaysian Plantations (biggest employer of local workers), Esso companies (largest exporter of local products), Malaysian Airlines System (least retrenchment 1983-1986) and MBF group of companies (highest increase of local workers (1983-1986)).