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MAHATHIR-BOOK  
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KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 16 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD STRESSED TODAY THE NEED FOR MORE BOOKS ON MALAYSIA'S HISTORY AND ITS PAST LEADERS, PARTICULARLY THOSE CONTAINING FACTS ON THE ORIGINS OF EVENTS AND THE LEADERS, TO PROJECT THE IDENTITY OF THE PEOPLE.

LAUNCHING THE BOOK +SUNGAI KOROK WAN MAT SAMAN+, WRITTEN BY DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR ISMAIL, HE SAID SUCH BOOKS NEED NOT NECESSARILY BE WRITTEN DIRECTLY IN THE FORM OF HISTORY.

THEY COULD BE WRITTEN IN A LIGHTER VEIN, LIKE IN THE FORM OF A DRAMA, HE SAID.

THE BOOK BY TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR, WRITTEN IN THE FORM OF A DRAMA, TELLS OF HOW 19TH CENTURY KEDAH PRIME MINISTER WAT MAT SAMAN WORKED TOWARDS THE BUILDING OF UP A 36KM CANAL.

THE PRIME MINISTER EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE NATION'S HISTORY COULD BE INTRODUCED MORE EFFECTIVELY THROUGH SUCH WRITING AS IT WOULD BE ABLE TO ATTRACT MORE READERS AND THAT THE CONTENTS WOULD REMAIN IN THE MINDS OF THE READERS FOR A LONGER TIME. -- MORE  
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HE SAID THAT THE NATION STILL LACKED BOOKS WHICH STRESSED ON EVENTS DEPICTING THE SUCCESSES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE PAST.

THIS MOVE TO PROJECT SUCH PEOPLE WAS NOT TO BOAST THE ACHIEVEMENTS BUT TO STRENGTHEN THE SPIRIT AND UNITY OF THE PEOPLE, HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR REFERRED TO THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE FORMATION OF THE MALAYAN UNION AND SAID THE STAGING OF DRAMAS WAS ONE OF FACTORS WHICH HAD ENHANCED THE UNITY OF THE PEOPLE AGAINST THE BRITISH AT THAT TIME.

HE PRAISED TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR FOR WRITING MALAY HISTORY IN THE FORM OF A DRAMA AS IT WAS NOT SOMETHING EASY.

TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR, WHO HAILS FROM KEDAH, IN HIS SPEECH SAID HE WROTE THE BOOK BECAUSE HE WAS PROUD OF THE EFFORTS OF WAN MAT SAMAN WHO LAID THE INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PADI INDUSTRY.

THIS WAS THE FIRST TIME HE WROTE A BOOK IN LIGHT LITERATURE FORM, HE SAID. -- BERNAMA  
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