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MAHATHIR-AUTHOR

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT 12 (BERNAMA) -- BRITISH AUTHOR ROBIN ADSHEAD HAS DESCRIBED PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD AS A TRULY HONEST PERSON, INCAPABLE OF DECEIT AND ONE SINCERELY COMMITTED TO THE GOAL OF IMPROVING MALAYSIA AND ITS PEOPLE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR IS A MAN OF SHINING INTEGRITY, UNDERESTIMATED BY MANY OF HIS COUNTRYMEN AND THE WESTERN WORLD ALIKE AND ONE WHO BELIEVES MORE STRONGLY IN THE CAPABILITIES OF THE MALAYSIAN PEOPLE THAN PERHAPS THEY DO THEMSELVES, HE SAYS IN HIS BOOK +MAHATHIR OF MALAYSIA - STATESMAN AND LEADER+, WHICH WAS LAUNCHED BY DEWAN RAKYAT SPEAKER TAN SRI MOHAMED ZAHIR ISMAIL HERE TODAY.

ENCIK ADSHEAD, A BRITISH PHOTOJOURNALIST WHO SERVED AS AN OFFICER WITH THE GURKHAS IN MALAYA DURING THE EMERGENCY IN 1950'57 SAYS IN A FOREWORD TO THE BOOK THAT DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S HONESTY IS IMPOSSIBLE TO BE UNDERSTOOD BY DEVIUS MINDS AND HIS SINGLE-MINDEDNESS OF AIM WOULD NATURALLY BE ATTACKED BY THOSE CRITICS WITH A SELF-INTEREST TO BE SERVED.

THE BOOK CHARTS THE PRIME MINISTER'S EARLY LIFE, FROM RADICAL STUDENT POLITICS THROUGH MEDICAL SCHOOL AND OUT INTO THE NATION'S POLITICAL MAINSTREAM.

ADSHEAD, 55, SAYS THE BOOK ALSO +OPENS A WINDOW ON DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR'S PRIVATE LIFE, FOLLOWING HIM ON HIS INFREQUENT LEISURE MOMENTS, AND SHOWING HIM ENJOYING HIS HOBBIES+.--MORE

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MANY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE BOOK HAVE BEEN SHOT EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE BOOK AND PRESENT A PORTRAIT NOT ONLY OF THE PRIME MINISTER BUT ALSO OF THE COUNTRY HE LEADS.

THE AUTHOR SAYS THAT THROUGH THE BOOK HE HOPES THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS OF HALAYSIANS WHO HAVE NEVER HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF MEETING THE PRIME MINISTER, WILL BE ABLE TO DISCOVER FOR THEMSELVES THE DEDICATED, CARING PERSON THAT HE IS RATHER THAN REGARDING HIM AS A COLD, IMPERSONAL FIGURE IN THEIR HISTORY BOOKS.-- BERNAMA

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