

PM hailed as visionary

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was lauded today as a man of vision with determination to match.

Launching the book *Mahathir of Malaysia: Statesman and Leader*, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Mohamed Zahir Ismail said it was easy to forget that politicians are people under an official facade and that even politicians themselves sometimes forgot this.

He said the book sets out to reveal the man whose ambition was to be a politi-

cian, who planned his career while still at school, and who has lived to see his plan carried through for the good of country and people.

Tan Sri Zahir said the book, by British photojournalist Robin Adshead, painted an accurate picture of Dr Mahathir as a sincere and honest man and an acknowledged world leader.

A former schoolmate of Dr Mahathir's, Tan Sri Zahir said the book could be used as a source of reference.

Distributed by Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd and

published by Hibiscus Publishing Co Ltd with a first print of 5,000 copies, it is available at all Berita Book Centres and leading outlets at \$49 each.

Also present at the launch were New Straits Times Press chairman Jen (B) Tan Sri Dato Mohd Ghazali Che Mat and Datuk Abdul Aziz Ismail, the principal private secretary to the Prime Minister.

Berita Publishing chairman Haji Nik Ibrahim Kamal said the author had sought to understand Dr Mahathir and to introduce him to readers through an uncomplicated narration

of facts and a rich collection of pictures.

Haji Nik Ibrahim told newsmen that the book would be translated into Bahasa Malaysia in a few months. Translations in other languages may follow if there is a market.

Mr Adshead, who retired from the British Army in 1971, served here on jungle operations with the 6th Gurkha Rifles during the last years of the Emergency.

He has since been a photojournalist specialising in defence, aviation, travel and international affairs.