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Mahathir - book

KUALA LUMPUR, July 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight one area where Malaysia has fallen behind her neighbours is in the area of publications to promote its tourist attractions overseas.

The Prime Minister said while there were quite a few books on Malaysia, they were not sufficient and seldom designed to promote the country.

+Indeed some books give an unfair picture of Malaysia,+ he said when launching +Malaysia: Heart of Southeast Asia+, a pictorial depiction of Malaysia.

On +Malaysia: Heart of Southeast Asia+, he said it was a book with a difference as no other book can boast the work of some of the world's best photographers with texts written by well-known authors.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the images captured in this high quality publication created an instant encounter with Malaysia's unparalleled natural wonders. -- more

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Mahathir - book 2 Kuala Lumpur

+Its potent and memorable impact will serve as a magnet to draw visitors from the world over to Malaysia. For Malaysians, this book will provide a graphic insight into their country's proud heritage and spectacular hidden treasures+, he said

He was confident that the book would not only be a success in promoting and encouraging more visitors to travel to Malaysia, but would also help stimulate further interest among Malaysians in their own country.

Thus they would undertake domestic excursions to experience for themselves the beauty of their nation, he added. -- more

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Mahathir - book 3 Kuala Lumpur

Later, when asked by reporters on the current status of Malaysia-Australia relations, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysia would wait and see for further developments on the matter.

Earlier today, Australian Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister Gareth Evans expressed the view that relations between Australia and Malaysia had been fully normalised.

+I think it is now possible to say that relations have been fully normalised,+ he told reporters at Singapore's Changi International Airport before departing for home.

Asked to comment on the statement, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said : +I suppose so.+ -- Bernama