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Mahathir - stamps

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched commemorative stamps on the country's three former prime ministers and paid tribute to the leaders, saying the people should appreciate their leadership, sacrifice and deeds.

The Prime Minister said the late Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Hai, Tun Abdul Razak and Tun Hussein Onn had been statesmen who possessed a high degree of nationalism in developing the country, creating harmony and boosting Malaysia's image in the international arena.

He hoped that the foundations laid by these former prime ministers would enable the nation achieve the desired progress and development.

The three stamps, each bearing a portrait of one of the prime ministers, are in \$1 denominations.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, who launched the stamps at the Pusat Islam here, said the stamps, issued by the Postal Department, would not only enable the younger generation to know of the contributions and thinking of the former leaders but also introduce the former-prime ministers to peoples of foreign countries. -- 210 r8

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Mahathir - stamps 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Tunku, respected, as +Bapa Malaysia+, led the nation from 1957 to 1970, Tun Razak or +Bapa Pembangunan+ from 1970 to 1976, and Tun Hussein Onn or +Bapa Perpaduan+ from 1976 to 1981.

After launching the stamps, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir toured an exhibition on the prime ministers at the centre. The exhibition will be open to the public until 1 Sunday.

The exhibition will then be held at the exhibition hall of the National Archives in Jalan Duta, and be opened to the public until Nov 30.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, when approached by reporters, said a memorial museum for Tunku Abdul Rahman was being planned and would be situated at the Prime Minister's Department Complex here.

The building which served as the residence of the Tunku when he was prime minister would be renovated for the purpose. -- more

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Mahathir - stamps 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said Malaysians should be proud of the nation's achievement in practising parliamentary democracy, adding that changes in leadership were carried out in a smooth and peaceful manner.

Political stability had enabled the country to progress well in the economic field, he said.

The widow of Tun Razak, Tun Hajah Rahah, and the widow of Tun Hussein, Tun Suhaila, were present at the ceremony and were presented a replica of the stamps by Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir. -- Bernama.

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