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THE +RESIDENCY+ BECOMES TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN MEMORIAL

Memorial-Tunku (With pix)

By Azman Zakaria

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KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 (Bernama) -- The +Residency,+ the official residence of Malaysia's first Prime Minister, will be facelifted and restored to house the Tunku Abdul Rahman Memorial, in memory of his invaluable contributions to the country.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will launch the memorial on Tuesday.

The memorial, located within the premises of the Prime Minister's Department in Jalan Datuk Onn here, will comprise three buildings -- the Residency and two new buildings which are to built to flank it.

The original effects of the Tunku will be organised to reflect its arrangement while he was in office and the two new buildings will accommodate the exhibition halls.

Dr Mahathir, in his message in a souvenir programme of the memorial, said the government's decision to set up the memorial is in appreciation and commemoration of the Tunku's great contributions. -- more

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Memorial-Tunku 2 Kuala Lumpur

+It will be the people's gesture towards the contributions of the country's foremost statesman,+ he said.

He said that Tunku is respected and loved by all Malaysians and the one who gained independence for the country.

The Residency was the official residence of the Tunku between 1956 and 1970, while he was Chief Minister of Malaya and later, as Prime Minister, until he stepped down from the post.

During that time, many official functions including state banquets were held at the Residency.

It was also the official residence of British Residents for Borneo during the colonial era until the outbreak of World War II. -- more

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Memorial-Tunku 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Many important meetings, especially on independence, were held there.

Among the areas to be restored are the dining hall, master bedroom, guest room and his personal office on the ground floor, where he made many important decisions on governing the country.

One room, known as the +Cairo Room+ because the chairs in it are bought from that city, will be converted into a greeting room with foreign guests.

The first floor of the new building on the left will include a research room, library, lobby and enquiry counter and the second floor, an exhibition and theme halls, among others.

National Archives Director-General Datuk Zakiah Hanum Abdul Hamid said 22,000 artefacts on the Tunku had been collected since 1963 and this would help it set up a complete memorial. -- Bernama

▼05/07/13-35MST