

Gallery to house

By
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LANGKAWI, Sun. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the Gallery Perdana, which houses part of the memorabilia presented to him as Prime Minister over the years.

Located in a wooded area about 10km from Kuah, the gallery showcases a vast collection of gifts ranging from Samurai swords, motorcars and portraits to framed Quranic verses, *keris* and vases.

The gallery is a project of the Langkawi Development Authority (Lada). Its general man-

ager, Datuk Abdul Halil Mutalib, presided over the simple ceremony.

In his brief remarks, Halil said having the gallery in Langkawi had made the people proud as this was also seen as a recognition of the vast tourist potential of the area.

The gallery is also intended to act as a cata-

lyst for development in the area besides being a museum for the gifts collected from all over the world.

Dr Mahathir said later the gifts did not belong to him as an individual but to the Prime Minister, which means they belong to the Government and the people.

PM's memorabilia

The gallery cost RM16 million and construction took 10 months to complete.

After taking a short tour of the premises and looking at the items, Dr Mahathir then launched two books.

The first is a pictorial by Zakaria Wahab, Dr Mahathir's assistant Press secretary.

The book, titled *Portrait Mahathir* (Mahathir in portrait), contains a collection of 200 colour photographs taken by Zakaria over the years. The pictures, some of them candid shots, show the Prime Minister in various poses in and outside the country.

All the pictures have

not been published before, making Zakaria's pictorial the first of its kind. Priced at RM125 (hardcover) at RM85 (paperback), the books will be on sale at Lima '95.

The author then handed a personal contribution of RM10,000 to the Amanah Saham Anak Langkawi.

There were two other contributions of RM10,000 each to the same fund. They were from the publisher, Gedung Karya Sdn Bhd, and the printer, C.T. Fong.

Fong also launched his third pictorial on Langkawi, *Legends in the Paradise 3*.