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Dr M launches biography of Tun Razak

THE first Malay pictorial biography depicting the life of Malaysia's second Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak was launched yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad launched the book entitled, "Tun Razak: Jejak Bertapak Seorang Patriot", which was written and compiled by former Utusan Malaysia editor-in-chief Datuk Zainuddin Maidin.

It was a joint effort between the Tun Razak Foundation and Utusan Publications and Distributors Sdn Bhd.

In his speech, Zainuddin said he had almost decided to resign from the task given to him by the Tun Razak Foundation's board of trustees due to personal reasons.

"Twice I wrote letters intending to hand over the job but the neither was ever sent.

"I continued with the task because of an appeal by Puan Azah Aziz, a member of the board of trustees and the coordinator of the book project," he added.

Zainuddin said he felt unable to complete the job because such a pictorial biography was an inadequate means of documenting his experience and tracing the history of Tun Razak from the early 1960s until 1976.

He was also greatly affected by a personal tragedy, but Azah, whom he referred to as "Kak Azah Aziz", managed to persuade him to continue with the work.

"In the end, it took me more than a year to produce two books in one version - the manuscript containing the period between the birth of Tun Razak until his death, followed by nine important pictorial episodes beginning with his family and his challenges and ending with his last episode in London," he added.

He also thanked the staff of the Memorial Tun Razak, the National Archives, the Information Department, the New Straits Times and Utusan Melayu Group for their contributions in making the book a success.

Meanwhile, Tun Razak Foundation chairman Tan Sri Abdullah Mohd Salleh said the documentation of the biography of Tun Razak was the first among four book projects launched by the foundation since it was established in February 1976.

He urged the private sector to contribute to the foundation so that it would be able to organise various activities to appreciate the deeds and sacrifice of Tun Razak.

The 328-page book can be found in all major bookstores and retails for RM195.

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