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Tamil-readers

FIRST TAMIL READERS DAY TO BE HELD TOMORROW AT APDC

KLANG, July 18 (Bernama) -- Some 1,000 people are expected to attend the first Malaysia Tamil Readers Day at the Asia and Pacific Development Centre (APDC) in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

The event to be held at 2pm will be officiated by the managing editor of Malaysian Namban Daily, Athi Kumanan who is also the President of Malaysian Tamil Writers Association.

Organising Committee Chairman, B.R. Rajan said it would be a historic event, the first to be held in the 150 years history of Indians in the country.

"As such, the function is being organised to recognise and appreciate Tamil readers who have continuously supported various Tamil publications and Tamil language development," he said in a statement released here today.

Rajan who is Editor-in-Chief of Arumbu weekly said it was also an occasion to honour veteran Tamil writers and also to reward winners of various writing competitions like short story, poem and feature writing.

Those present would be entertained to stage play, comedy show, classical and modern dances as well a debate on "Who are the backbone of Tamil newspapers in the country? - Readers or Writers?"

Rajan said the International Tamil Research Conference held under the patronage of Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu and officiated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1986 had been the catalyst for the development of Tamil language in the country.

Besides this, he said, the liberal education, broadcasting, information and press freedom policy of the government had contributed towards the development of the language thus increasing Tamil readership in the country.

Rajan said the government in its liberal policy had set up a Tamil Studies Department at Universiti Malaya (UM) and recently made Radio 6, the Tamil Language channel, into a 24-hour broadcast, making Malaysia the only country in the world to provide such a service.

There are more than one million Tamil readers out of the 1.7 million Indian population in the country. Most of them are Tamil school educated and at present there are 543 Tamil schools throughout the country.

Tamil Nesan, Malaysia Namban and Thinamurasu are the three Tamil dailies in the country. Besides that there are four weeklies, 25 Tamil magazines and periodicals being published in Tamil in the country.

--BERNAMA

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