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Lives of four former party presidents on compact disc

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The history of four former Umno presidents, three of whom were also Prime Ministers, will be available on compact disc in the multi-media format by May.

Utusan Group executive chairman Tan Sri Kamarul Ariffin Mohamed Yassin said two of the CDs, featuring Umno founder and first president Datuk Onn Jaafar and second president Tunku Abdul Rahman, were ready.

"The other two, featuring Tun Abdul Razak Hussein and Tun Hussein Onn, are almost complete," he said.

Kamarul Ariffin said the project was a continuation of the group's History Frames the Future Umno 5 Dasawarsa CD-ROM project which covers the history of Umno over 50 years.

He was speaking to reporters after the presentation of the CD-ROM to Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Also present were DRB-Hicom chairman Tan Sri Yahaya Ahmad and executive chairman of Business Focus Sdn Bhd Datuk Amin Shah Omar Shah.

DRB-Hicom and Business Focus are the sponsors of the project which cost more than RM1 million.

"The History Frames the Future Umno 5 Dasawarsa project was commissioned for Umno's 50th anniversary celebration and contains text and more than 1,000 pictures in the interactive format," Kamarul Ariffin said.

Some pictures had never been published before, especially those sourced from the London Public Records Office and other British libraries.

Other sources of information were the group's library, National Archives, Filem Negara Malaysia, and the Umno headquarters.

Kamarul Ariffin said the CD was a good source of reference for those interested in learning about the struggle for independence.

About 2000 CDs would be distributed to secondary schools and 8,000 more to Umno branches nationwide. Umno clubs overseas had received their compact discs during last year's general assembly.

Kamarul Ariffin also urged local corporations to create more software in Bahasa Malaysia.

He said the Utusan Group would be launching another CD-ROM on Jan 31 entitled the Utusan Almanac, featuring important events of last year.

"The CD-ROM will also contain 350 other items on Malaysia, its ministries and also the State Governments."

He said the almanac would be a good source of reference of important events.

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