

22 NOV 1997

Archives-Mahathir

MAHATHIR'S BIRTHPLACE TO BE TURNED INTO TOURIST LURE

ALOR SETAR, Nov 22 (Bernama) -- The National Archives will restore and redevelop the Malay village at Lorong Kilang Ais where the house in which Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born is located.

Its director-general Habibah Zon said the National Archives had acquired a 0.4ha site to develop it into a tourist attraction.

She said the area would be redeveloped with the original village environment during the time of Dr Mahathir's birth and his childhood days.

The ice factory nearby the house would also be restored and turned into a gallery showcasing the ice industry, she said when speaking at the prize-presentation of an art competition in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the opening of Dr Mahathir's birthplace here today.

Habibah said the equipment used for ice-making at the factory, which ceased operations two years ago, would also be displayed for public viewing.

Habibah said the area need to be preserved due to its historical significance.

Several traditional Malay kampung houses would also be built in the area, she added. -- BERNAMA

MN ATI TS