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Mahathir-History

MALAYSIANS DON'T SEEM TO APPRECIATE HISTORY- DR MAHATHIR

LANGKAWI, July 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today lamented that many Malaysians have no appreciation for history and do not value the lessons it has taught.

Lacking historic knowledge, they did not know from where they came from and where they would go after this, he said when opening a photo exhibition in conjunction with the 10th anniversary of Langkawi becoming a free port.

"Due to this, they do not know whether the path before them is the right one or not," he said.

Dr Mahathir said many Malaysians did not value History as could be seen from the fact that not many of them keep articles and pictures of historic interest.

They looked upon such articles as items of a past era not realising they had immense historic value, he added.

"They should treasure these items. For instance the Japanese currency note depicting the banana tree in circulation during the Japanese Occupation. It is difficult to come across such money now, which is part of our national history."

Another historic mode of transport was the rickshaw. No one is keeping this vehicle anymore.

"It is so difficult to find one even for exhibition purposes," he said.

Dr Mahathir said historic items were important to compare the present with the past.

The Prime Minister praised the New Straits Times for organising the photo exhibition which would enable the people to note the changes that had taken place in Langkawi.

Dr Mahathir said if 10 years ago only 30,000 tourists came to Langkawi now nearly two million tourists were coming to this legendary island.

The photo exhibition will be on until Aug 6.

The Prime Minister's wife Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid and NST Group Editor-in-Chief Datuk Abdul Kadir Jasin were among the dignitaries present.-- BERNAMA

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