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## Night of poetry and inspiration

Cheah Phaik Kin

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's sajak Perjuangan Yang Belum Selesai presented by Ras Adiba Radzi inspired undergraduates of Universiti Putra Malaysia to continue fighting the "Malaysian battle".

Ras, an artiste and television personality, mesmerised the audience in the packed hall with her expressive song cum recital presentation of the meaningful poem, motivating the younger generation to fight the nation's "endless battle".

UPM students were treated to Malam Puisi Gema Senandung 1997, an entertaining and educational night of poetry recitals by some of the country's renowned academicians, composers and writers.

The event, held at the university's experimental theatre at its Serdang campus recently, was an extraordinary lesson out of the lecture hall, especially on poetry appreciation, with the celebrities as their lecturers.

Jointly organised by the Faculty of Modern Language Studies Student Society and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka, the event was dedicated to the late Malaysian hero, historian, academician and independence fighter Aminuddin Baki.

"The event was aimed at recognising his achievements and contributions to the nation, and his heirs," said project director Kamal Arifin Bidin, a final-year student at the faculty.

He added that the event was also aimed at creating awareness among the undergraduates to preserve their cultural heritage.

"It is also a valuable lesson in the appreciation of works of Malaysian writers."

UPM deputy vice-chancellor of student affairs Prof Dr Rahim Md Sail said he encouraged the undergraduates, regardless of their field of study, to widen their horizons and appreciate poetry and fine arts.

"This way we can learn to appreciate life and learn about ourselves," he said.

Most of the poems featured that night depict the Malaysian lifestyle, culture and fight for independence.

Prof Dr Firdaus Abdullah recited a touching poem on the death of Aminuddin Baki entitled Pahlawan, Engkau Telah Pergi.

Datuk A. Samad Said presented his works entitled Cenderahati and Mogok Seni while four-time national poetry recital champion and magazine writer Tengku Khalida Tengku Bidin recited Zurina Hassan's Surat Teja Kepada Tuah and Zain Kasturi's Kenang Katarsis.

Others who took part in the recital were Razali Yusof, Associate Prof Rahman Shaari, Lim Swee Tin, Datuk Jins Shamsuddin and Datuk Zakiah Hanum.

(END)