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Affrini to recite his works at poem-reading night

ALOR STAR, Wed. - Well-known poet Affrini Adham, 70, will be among those who will recite poems at the National Writers Association's Poem Reading Night in Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

He will recite six poems, including one entitled Pak Utih Dan Kemerdekaan which touches on the struggle for freedom.

The others are Ibuku, Menyala, Ke Arah Kemerdekaan, Malaya Pasti Merdeka and Kembali Bergema Semula.

Affrini, whose real name is Ariffin Ahmad, has written no less than 500 poems.

During the Japanese occupation, he was a trader at Pekan Rabu, Alor Star, selling mats, bananas and local fruits.

Next to his stall outside the Pekan Rabu building and under the shade of a cherry tree, was a stall of his friend.

That friend was none other than Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who was then selling pisang goreng and coconuts with Johari Taib.

Even in those days he was always holding a book in his hand and was reading in between selling the goreng pisang, Affrini said, recounting his days with the Prime Minister.

Affrini had vowed not to get married until Malaya achieved independence and almost kept his vow.

Affrini married Rokiah Md Isa, 60, on Aug 5, 1957 and blessed with three children, Affrini 40, Adham 38, and Aishawati 25.

Dr Mahathir once commented about Affrini's beard asking him whether he wished to look like Samad Said.

The Prime Minister was in stitches when Affrini said: "No, not Samad Said but Ho Chin Minh".

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