

15/03/1999

Langkawi museum a dream come true for artist Ibrahim

LANGKAWI, Sun. - Nestled in the forest reserve of Macincang in Datai here, the recently-opened Ibrahim Hussein Foundation museum is a dream come true for the nation's foremost artist Datuk Ibrahim Hussein.

"It's a museum unlike others. It will cater to multifaceted disciplines of painting, fine arts, music, poetry, sculpture and dances," said Ibrahim who turned 63 yesterday.

The dream to set up the museum began to take shape in 1987 when he was invited by First Finance Minister Tun Daim Daim Zainuddin to do so followed by the launching of the Ibrahim Hussein Museum and Cultural Foundation in 1992 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The tax-exempt donations came up to RM5 million, with largest sum of RM2 million coming from the late Tan Sri Loh Boon Siew.

Daim, who is joint chairman of Langkawi Development Authority, also asked Hussein to look for a suitable site on the island.

After three days and nights, he came up with the ideal site. Sandwiched between Gunung Macincang and the Andaman Sea adjacent to Pasir Tengkorak, 18 hectares were alienated for the project.

Construction of the museum began in December 1997 and was completed last year.

Though located far from town, Ibrahim does not see this as an obstacle to attract art lovers.

Kedah-born Ibrahim who has gained international fame and acclaim described the museum as "a legacy for all Malaysians" with an international concept.

The museum houses the works of Ibrahim over the past 11 years and not previously exhibited either locally or overseas. Among them are 25 which he had earlier given to his wife, Sim, and daughter Alia.

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