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The house that inspires improvement in people

ALOR STAR, Mon. - The Prime Minister's house in Seberang Perak here is becoming a source of inspiration for people from all walks of life.

Since 1992, more than 100,000 people have visited the house, which is the birth-place of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Many say that the ordinary-looking Malay wooden house reminds all who see it that luxury is not everything to achieving success.

But pupils who gathered around the house for a painting competition in conjunction with the "seventh anniversary to commemorate the birth-place of Mahathir Mohamad," today, had their own stories to tell.

Twelve-year-old Charles Tan Ian Kun of Sekolah Rendah Iskandar said the sight of the house revived his spirit and determination to succeed.

"I'm sure Dr Mahathir has worked hard to be where he is now.

"And if he can do it in this kind of environment, why not me?", said Tan, who won third placing under the primary school category of the competition organised by the National Archives.

Another contestant, Syarihan Sajidah Muhd Khalid, 10, said she admired Dr Mahathir's patience and hard work.

"Looking at the house, no one expects it to be the birth-place of a leader.

"And I am determined to become a successful person like him one day," said Syarihan of Sekolah Rendah Sultanah Asma, who won second placing under the same category.

Mohd Nidzom Mat Noh of Kolej Sultan Abdul Hamid said the house inspired him to emulate the strong will-power of Dr Mahathir.

"The house is so simple and basic. And yet Dr Mahathir managed to achieve so much," said Mohd Nidzom, who was placed third under the secondary school category.

The house, now under the care of the National Archives, was bought by Dr Mahathir's father, Mohamad Iskandar, in 1900.

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