

16/08/2000

Plan to rename Pekan Rabu

ALOR STAR, Tues. - The State Government today proposed that Alor Star's famed traditional craft and food bazaar, Pekan Rabu, be renamed "Che Det Mall" to reflect its link to its most notable former trader, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Fondly known as the State's first supermarket to be run by Malay traders, Pekan Rabu is one of Alor Star's best known and oldest landmarks.

It has long been called Pekan Rabu because of its beginnings as a weekly market held on Wednesdays, but the bustling market will now take on the nickname "Che Det" which is how most Kedah folk refer to Dr Mahathir.

Dr Mahathir began trading in Pekan Rabu at the age of 19, during the Japanese Occupation, and has credited this experience as one which helped him learn the basics of economics.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain said the move would also recognise the many contributions of the Prime Minister to the development of the market place.

He said the State Government would also propose to Mara that Koperasi Pekan Rabu Berhad be allowed to take over the entire building along Jalan Tunku Ibrahim.

He said the portion of the building currently occupied by Mara would be turned into a budget hotel.

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