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Mahathir-Book

DOCUMENT THINGS OF INTEREST TO HELP M'SIANS UNDERSTAND HISTORY

PUTRAJAYA, June 5 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there is a need to have more people to document things of interest to the country to help Malaysians understand history.

The Prime Minister said one of the problems the country faced was that many people do not understand history.

"History has many lessons and those who do not know history tend to make mistakes over and over again," he said when launching a book entitled "The Propagation of Islam in the Indonesian-Malay Archipelago" here today.

The book was edited and annotated by Malaysian Sociological Research Institute (MSRI) chairman Dr Alijah Gordon.

The 500-page hardcover book is priced at RM120 a copy.

Dr Mahathir also said Islam would not have come to Malaya if the Arabs, Indian Muslims and Chinese had not been great sailors.

"They know all about the wind, the current and the position they are in whenever they are sailing," he said.

The Prime Minister said these people developed the art of navigation so well that they could travel for thousands of miles with very minimal instruments to guide them.

"Islam owes a lot to the navigational ability of these people, and therefore it is important that Muslims understand the importance of studying navigation," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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