

Biography of a party veteran launched

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today launched the biography of Umno permanent chairman Tun Sulaiman Ninam Shah.

The 298-page biography of Sulaiman, an Umno member since its formation in 1946, took Harun Johari and Datuk Wan Mahyuddin Wan Nawang three years to compile, and was published by Utusan Publications and Distributors Sdn Bhd.

Dr Mahathir commended the effort to publish Sulaiman's biography.

The Umno president, however, expressed regret that not much effort had been made to document the experiences and struggles of Umno veterans.

"Because of this we have lost almost half the history on the struggle of our party. The personal experiences of these party veterans are invaluable because, indirectly, the future generation will be able to know about the political struggle in the country," he said.

Many notes concerning the country leaders could not be preserved in time or recorded, and when the leaders died, their personal experience and history of their struggle would be lost.

Dr Mahathir said that nowadays this task would be easier with the help of audio and visual technology.

He suggested that efforts be made

to interview prominent people now, while they were still healthy.

"I think the biography of Tun (Sulaiman) will be read not only by those who want to know about him, but also those who want to know about events during the Umno general assemblies in the past," he said.

Sulaiman is Umno's 11th perma-

nent chairman and has been in his seat since 1976.

In his speech at the function, Sulaiman said he hoped the party would replace him when his term expired in 2003.

"There are many capable people in Umno now. I wish to retire as age is catching up with me," he said.