

Khalil: Have a photo expo on Mahathir

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KUALA LUMPUR: Newspaper organisations in the country should get together and organise a large-scale photo exhibition on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during his 22-year tenure as Prime Minister, said Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob.

The Information Minister said the exhibition should be aimed at honouring the Prime Minister and "expose" him to Malaysians through pictures captured by the lenses of photojournalists but were unused.

"These pictures may not have been used due to space constraints in the newspapers but they sure tell a great story of the man who has been enormously photographed in Malaysia, be they professional or amateur photographers.

"I would say it should be an interesting effort or project to gather all the pictures of Dr Mahathir in one exhibition as a mark of respect to the man who had brought us the developments we enjoy in Malaysia today," he said in his speech at the launch of the World Press

Photo 2002 Exhibition organised by Star Publications (M) Bhd and co-hosted by Utusan Malaysia and the Nanyang Siang Pau group.

He said foreign publications, too, could do their part in the exhibition by displaying photos that were rarely seen of the Prime Minister.

Later at a press conference, Khalil said he hoped it was possible to hold the exhibition before National Day next year.

He also said if all the media here agreed in principle to the exhibition, he would then call for a meeting to co-ordinate this at ministry level and it would be left to a committee from the media to do the rest and decide on the panel to select the photos.

He added that RTM, which had its own library with lots of pictures of Dr Mahathir, too, would co-operate in the exhibition.

He also hoped a pictorial album of Dr Mahathir would be put together in conjunction with the exhibition.

The World Press Photo exhibition at the National Arts Gallery would be on until Sept 27.

A total of 49,235 pictures were submitted by 4,171 photographers from 123 countries for this year's competition. Twenty-eight Malaysian photojournalists took part.

The annual exhibition is shown each year at about 70 venues in 35 countries all over the world.

Star Publications deputy group chief editor Wong Sulong, in his speech, said the winning entries of World Press Photo exhibition were a testimony to the resilience of a photograph in telling that story which would otherwise take a thousand words to describe.

"When we look at them, they seem to reach out to us. From terrifying images of the atrocities of war to the innocent smiles of children basking in the sun, these photos tell the unmistakable story of humankind's journey in life," he said.