

21 OCT 2003

Author-Shock

AUTHOR SHOCKED TO FIND OVER 2,000 BOOKS MISSING AT PCC

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- More than 2,000 books used to create the Tallest Book Tower as a tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Putrajaya Convention Centre (PCC) are missing.

The author of "Dare to Fail", Billi Lim, said he was shocked when told that this Tallest Book Tower had been stripped and the books missing.

He told Bernama that the books had a face value of RM70,000.

"I was speechless when told that my Tallest Book Tower tribute to the Prime Minister had been stripped, leaving only the skeleton of the tower," Billy said.

He said only one Chinese language book was left dangling at one of the 20-metre tall twin-tower structures built along the lines of the Petronas Twin Towers.

Billi's tower was officially recognised as the Tallest Book Tower in the country by the Malaysia Book of Records on Aug 22 when it was displayed at the Sunway Pyramid for a month.

Subsequently, it was displayed at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) in Sepang after which it was moved to the concourse of the PCC for the just-concluded Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Summit.

"I have lodged a police report," said Billi.

According to Billi, the Tallest Book Tower was conceived by him as a tribute to Dr Mahathir's 22 years of contributions to the nation.

He said he had arranged to take the tower to various strategic locations throughout the country so that more people would be aware of the Prime Minister's contributions.

"I have interested parties in the Klang Valley, Pahang, Johor, Penang as well as Sabah. Now, I am in a dilemma as to how to respond to their requests," Billi said.

"What is worrying me is that before the end of this month I have to move the Book Tower to KL Sentral to display it there before Dr Mahathir officially steps down on Oct 31," he said.

Billi is appealing to those who had taken the books to return them to him before Sunday as he needs the books for the Tower's scheduled nation-wide road show.

He said that the books included those written by Dr Mahathir himself, Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam, Edmond Cheah, Alex Sito, Rajen Devadasan and his own "Dare to Fail" motivational series.

The books can be returned to Hardknocks Factory Sdn Bhd, USJ 13/3, Subang Jaya, 47630 Petaling Jaya, or by contacting Tel: 03-5638 0916.

Billi added that those wanted to keep the books could send a cheque or money order for RM30.00 per book made payable Hardknocks Factory Sdn Bhd.

-- BERNAMA

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