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Mahathir-Thoughts

DR M'S COLLECTION OF THOUGHTS, TRANSLATION INSTITUTE'S GIFT FOR PM

By: Nor Hayati Muda

KUALA LUMPUR, April 12 (Bernama) -- With the impending retirement of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in October, the people may yearn for his critical thoughts he has put forth boldly each time he appears in public.

His ability to think of new yet constructive ideas, not thought of by many orators, flow like a swift current in a river transcend all barriers and often make listeners dumbfounded.

Sometimes his thought-provoking speeches arouse the fighting spirit in oneself while at times they prick the conscience of the people to be ashamed of themselves and there are times they are delivered in the form of jokes but laced with deep messages.

This is readily acknowledged by National Institute of Translation Malaysia Bhd Chairman Datuk Abdul Aziz Rahman, who said the thinking of Malaysians had also changed since Dr Mahathir took over the country's leadership in July 1981.

"We do not want his valuable thoughts to be forgotten by time. That's why we've taken the initiative to translate all his speeches delivered in the 1990s and have made a collection to serve as a guide to society, especially to the younger generation," he said in an exclusive interview with BERNAMA.

"We expect to start translating the speeches by either end of this year or early next year. If they (foreign missions) do not want to cooperate, we'll do it by ourselves using our own experts," he said.

As to the marketing of the collection, Aziz said the institute had held discussions with Members of Parliament and also senators to distribute the collections in their constituencies.

"They can buy the collections and place them at public-gathering places in their constituencies to enable the locals, particularly the younger generation, to read them," he said.

He said efforts are also being made to distribute the collections to public universities.

"The collections will be among Dr Mahathir's many valuable legacies for the people. We do not want our younger generation to forget the contributions of a leader who has brought about immense changes to our country," he said.

After launching the collections, Aziz said the institute would start a second project -- to collect Dr Mahathir's writings when he was known as "Che Det." The works will be translated into various languages.

"For this, we are negotiating with the National Archives to search and gather his writings. We want to set up a special corner to display Dr Mahathir's works," he said.

The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamalullail will launch the collection known as "Translated Collection of Dr Mahathir's Thoughts" on May 13.

Dr Mahathir will be present at the launch.

Those interested to attend the event can get further information from the institute by calling 03-55442018, 03-41497210 or fax 03-55442223/03-41491535.

A set of the collection is sold at RM379. Proceeds from the sale will be channelled to the National Translation Fund.

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