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Gallery-Mahathir

SOFT OPENING OF SERI PERDANA GALLERY IN TWO MONTHS FROM NOW

BATU GAJAH, Perak, June 16 (Bernama) -- The "Seri Perdana Gallery" in Kuala Lumpur, which will show to the public the "other side" of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, will have its soft opening in two months from now

Director-General of National Archives Datuk Habibah Zon said that works on the former official residence of Dr Mahathir and his family was 95 percent ready and the official opening would be held before the Prime Minister's retirement in October.

"This gallery will show how the Prime Minister lived there and what he was doing besides his usual official duties," she told reporters after the launching of the book "Tokoh-Tokoh Batu Gajah, Perak" by Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak at the Sultan Yussuf Secondary School here today.

She said they were working on producing a video presentation, "A day in the life of the Prime Minister" which would be shown to visitors to the gallery.

"This will show the simple life he leads despite being the Prime Minister. Many people will think he had a big bedroom there but they will be surprised when they see the actual place," she added.

Habibah said many features of the residence where Dr Mahathir stayed for almost 16 years before he moved to Putrajaya in 1998, have been retained, including his bedroom, study, kitchen and dining hall.

In fact, the chair where Dr Mahathir had hair cuts by his barber would be kept at the same place, she said.

"We also know Dr Mahathir's passion for carpentry. We have retained the place where he used to do his carpentry works. He also likes gardening and remembers very well every plant, including the ones he planted," she added.

She said the gallery was different from the one in Alor Star where Dr Mahathir was born.

The gallery would also be equipped with a theatre and some of Dr Mahathir's personal items, said Habibah.

-- BERNAMA

AR AR AAM