

Four tries but Mahathir still dissatisfied with memoirs

STAR 27 JAN 2005

PETALING JAYA: He has made four attempts to pen his memoirs, but Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad is just not satisfied with what he has written.

"I started again and again. I think I am on my fourth start and I am still not able to write something readable," he said in an interview with the Rotary Club Damansara West recently.

The interview will be published in the programme book for the "Rotary Honours Tun Dr Mahathir" dinner in conjunction with Rotary International's centennial celebrations.

The former prime minister will receive the Rotary Centennial Visionary Leadership Award during the event at the Legend Hotel tomorrow.

Dr Mahathir said one of the reasons he found it so hard to write was that he felt embarrassed talking about himself.

"Right from the word go, I tried to avoid a personality cult. This was one reason why when I became education minister, I did not allow schools or anything to be named after me.

"I don't like talking about myself and now that I have got to write about myself, it is difficult because it looks like I am, as the Malay proverb goes, putting myself in a basket and carrying it (*masuk bakul angkat sendiri*)," he added.