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Mahathir-Award

TUN MAHATHIR BESTOWED BOOK AWARD

KUALA LUMPUR, July 25 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was today bestowed the "Tokoh Perdana Buku Negara 2005" award in appreciation of his big ideas to uplift the people, which have been written into several books.

His intellectual vision covering Islamic issues, globalisation, Asia, human rights and science and technology are also contained in the Encyclopedia Dr Mahathir Mohamad which was launched two years ago.

Dr Mahathir received a trophy, certificate, gold coin and RM50,000. He was accompanied by his wife, Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

The Yang Dipertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Syed Putra Jamlullail and Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid also attended the presentation ceremony.

The event was organised by the National Book Development Foundation with the cooperation of the Malaysian Book Council and the Education Ministry.

Dr Mahathir in his speech of thanks, said even with all the advance of the print and electronic media, reading was still important to gain knowledge.

"Readers are still needed now, because reading requires efficiency for those wanting to improve on their effectiveness and master various languages," he said.

Former recipients of the award are the former director-general of Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) and Malaysia's ambassador to UNESCO, Datuk Dr Hassan Ahmad and the founder of Pustaka Antara, the late Datuk Abdul Aziz Ahmad.

Meanwhile, the award for the best bookstore was won by MPH Book Store Sdn Bhd. All the awards were presented by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

-- BERNAMA

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