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Malays complacent due to good life, says Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The comfortable life enjoyed by the present generation of Malays has made them complacent and unwilling to face future challenges, said Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The former Prime Minister said the majority of Malay youths were more concerned about enjoying themselves than equipping themselves with knowledge and other capabilities.

"Many Malay youths do not pass their examinations while others are involved in dadah activities under the notion that they are enjoying life when they are actually digging their own graves.

"They do not realise that the comfortable life which they enjoy now was due to the struggles of their forefathers who fought for Independence," he said when launching a novel, *Our Ways*, written by former journalist Ismail Harun, at the National Library here today.

Present were his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Kedah Malay Chambers of Commerce president Tan Sri Khalid Abdullah, Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and Utusan Melayu Group editor-in-chief Datuk Khalid Mohamed.

He said Malays should be made to realise the catastrophic results if they continued to be weak and illiterate.

"They should visit those countries where Malays form a minority to know what will happen to them in future if they continue to be complacent."

He added that Malays could fulfil their independence by developing their physical, material and spiritual aspects.

"We can redeem our dignity after 450 years of colonialisation by proving ourselves and our capabilities to the world."

Distributed by Utusan Publications & Distributors Sdn Bhd, *Our Ways* is a first-person narrative that describes the evolving climate of Malaysia's past to the present.

The story is relevant especially to young Malaysians to make them aware of the challenges ahead in this period of globalisation.

Among others, the book aims to inspire the nation's youths by reminding them of positive values that inevitably pave the way to success and set them on the right track to achieve their aspirations.

The English novel will also enhance the language proficiency of youths, especially Malays.

Proceeds from its sales will go towards the construction of the Kedah Malay Chambers' multi-purpose, eight-storey building, estimated to cost RM4 million, in Alor Star.

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