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Foundation to compile info on former prime ministers

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. - Information on the thoughts and policies of the nation's former prime ministers will be compiled at the Perdana Leadership Foundation here for use as a point of reference in nation-building.

The foundation's board of trustees chairman, Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin, said the documentation was needed to educate the younger generation.

He said documents and information on the four former prime ministers - Tengku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, Tun Hussein Onn and Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad - and their Cabinets would be compiled.

"It is not another think tank but it is initiated to honour the previous prime ministers," Azizan told a Press conference here today.

The foundation was established in January, with 24 companies contributing RM23 million for the construction of its building.

Part of the building has been converted into an office for Dr Mahathir and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

Azizan, who is also Putrajaya Holdings president, said many people were confused and linked the foundation to Dr Mahathir.

He acknowledged there were suggestions to name the foundation after Dr Mahathir. "But Dr Mahathir rejected this. However, we want to honour him. That is why we asked him to occupy part of the foundation's premises."

Azizan said the foundation, however, was not involved in Dr Mahathir's programmes.

There are 24 members on the board of trustees. They were appointed by the companies which had contributed to the setting up of the foundation.

Seven members have been appointed to the executive council which would hold frequent discussions on the foundation's operations.

The seven are Azizan, Tan Sri Azman Hashim, Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz, Tan Sri Mohamed Basir Ahmad, Datuk Shahril Shamsuddin, Datuk Tan Tiong Hian and Datuk Krishnan Tan Boon Seng.