

17/06/2003

PM's former residence for public viewing

BATU GAJAH, Mon. - Malaysians will soon be able to gain insight into the life of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad during the pre-Putrajaya days, when his former residence in Damansara, Kuala Lumpur, is opened to the public as Galleria Sri Perdana.

"He leads such a simple life; you can't believe it," said Arkib Negara Malaysia director-general Datuk Habibah Zon, citing the tattered rocking chair and television that Dr Mahathir was persuaded to bequeath to the collection.

"Visitors will be able to see his bedroom and a room of one of his children, the kitchen, the dining room and even the rooms where he practised woodwork and had his hair cut," she said after the launch of a book on prominent personalities of Batu Gajah here today.

The book, Tokoh-Tokoh Batu Gajah, Perak, which comprises the biographies of 148 personalities, was launched today by Sultan Azlan Shah of Perak.

An audio-visual show, A day in the life of Dr Mahathir, will be held at the garage, which will be converted into a theatre.

Dr Mahathir's birthplace in Alor Star is also being preserved.