

PM's childhood house will be open to public

ALOR STAR, Wed. — The house where Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was born and raised at No 18, Lorong Kilang Ais, off Jalan Pegawai, here, which is undergoing restoration as a historical site, will be open for public viewing next year.

National Archives director-general Datuk Zakiah Hanum said restoration work on the 90-year-old house which started last May was scheduled to be completed this month.

"Once the restoration is completed, the house will become another place of interest for tourists.

She was speaking to reporters before chairing a meeting with local experts in Malay traditional food at the National Archives branch office, here.

The restoration project is the second to be undertaken by the National Archives after the late Tan Sri P. Ramlee's house in Penang.

Located behind an ice factory, the attap-roofed house was deteriorating before the National Archives decided to restore and preserve its architectural structure.

Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik had said in February that the house would become a tourist attraction while serving to preserve local heritage.

Nearby residents had also given the thumbs up when the plan to restore the house was announced by the Government.

Zakiah also said a seminar on traditional food and cuisine would be held in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 1.

"All the information gathered by the National Archives through meetings and discussions with local experts from each State, will be tabled for discussions at the seminar.

"The seminar also hopes to come out with a guideline on traditional Malay food preparation and recommend it to hotels, restaurants and hotel and catering schools," she added.

Zakiah, who chaired the discussions at State level said much information on traditional Malay food had been obtained from the locals. She had visited all States except Negri Sembilan to gather information.