

14 AUG 2000

Che Det-Book

DR MAHATHIR LAUNCHES BOOK ON HIS INVOLVEMENT IN BUSINESS

ALOR SETAR, Aug 14 (Bernama) -- A book entitled "Che Det dan Pekan Rabu" was today launched in recognition of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's contribution to the development of Pekan Rabu, a popular Malay bazaar here.

The book, written by Zahidi Datuk Zainol Rashid, gives an account of Dr Mahathir's involvement in business as a youth there and the development of the famous bazaar in Alor Setar.

Zahidi is currently Head of the Circulation Department, Kedah Public Library Corporation.

Dr Mahathir launched the book at the Pekan Rabu complex.

In his speech, the Prime Minister said the publication of the book was a great honour to him.

"This place has taught me much about business and economics which are very important to me in helping to think about how to manage and administer the economy and protect the country when it is attacked by currency rogues," he said.

Dr Mahathir is known to have a special relationship with Pekan Rabu.

According to the notes in the souvenir programme, when the Japanese occupied Malaya during World War Two, all schools were closed down and the only schools that were open were those teaching the Japanese language, but Dr Mahathir did not attend such schools.

It was then that he ventured into business setting up a coffee shop with two friends known as "Pak Jo" and "Nana". The shop also sold "cendol", a sweet local drink, and fruits.

Despite his young age, Dr Mahathir was appointed manager of the shop.

In 1957, he resigned from government service and started his own business. Besides opening a clinic, he also ventured into the transport and quarry business with his friend.

Each time he returns to Alor Setar, Dr Mahathir never fails to

visit

the bazaar which had taught him the rudiments of business.

He has been a member of the Koperasi Pekan Rabu, which has 239 members, since Dec 31, 1959.

The existing complex was officially opened in 1978 by Dr Mahathir, when he was Deputy Prime Minister.

Dr Mahathir had previously written a book entitled "A Guide for Petty Traders" based on his experiences when he was in business.

The book "Che Det dan Pekan Rabu" is available in the market beginning today at an offer price of RM80, compared to the normal price of RM120. The offer price is only applicable today.

The book was published by the Kedah Public Library Corporation.

-- BERNAMA

MZM/MAN AO

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