

01 FEB 2003

Mahathir-Book

DR MAHATHIR'S STRUGGLES SPURS UAE JOURNALIST TO WRITE A BOOK ON HIM

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- The credibility of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in helming the country's administration has prompted a journalist from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to write a book on him.

Titled "Mahathir Mohamad: From An Arab and Muslim Perspective" the book, written in Arabic, is slated to be launched during the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Leaders' Summit to be hosted by Malaysia in October.

Malaysian Ambassador to the UAE, Datuk Syed Hussein Abdul Kadir Al Habshee, said the book would also be published in Bahasa Malaysia and English early next year.

The book, expected to be completed in September, would be launched during the OIC Summit, he said.

"We choose to launch it during the summit because the book is linked to the Islamic World. Furthermore, leaders from Islamic countries, including from high-profile nations, are expected to attend the summit," he told reporters.

The book's author, Dr Abdulrahim Abdulwahid, said he was writing the book in Arabic not only to get a wider perspective from the leaders of Islamic countries, but also as a proof that the Arab world was impressed with Dr Mahathir's leadership.

He said he decided to write the book upon realising that the Arabs were not aware of the role and contributions of Dr Mahathir all this while.

"To me, Dr Mahathir is a Muslim leader who can give a very good image of Islam, especially after the Sept 11 terror attack on the United States where people began to have prejudices on Muslims," he said.

He said Dr Mahathir's boldness in telling the world, especially

to the  
United States, that Islam did not advocate terrorism and Muslims  
were not  
terrorists was appreciated by the Arab leaders.

"There's no Arab leader as brave as him so far," he added.

-- BERNAMA

SOP KHY TS