

After delays, book on Pak Lah to unveil on M'sia Day
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More than a month after the launch of a hotly debated book about former prime minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was put off, it will finally receive an official unveiling on Malaysia Day.

lingam tape panel meeting 031007 mahadev shankarThe book, entitled "Awakening: The Abdullah Badawi Years in Malaysia" will be launched in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow in the presence of former Court of Appeal Judge Mahadev Shankar (left), the guest of honour.

Mahadev was also a member of the Royal Commission of Inquiry (RCI) into alleged judicial fixing involving lawyer VK Lingam. The RCI was initiated during the Abdullah administration.

Abdullah, had during his tenure, made an unprecedented gesture in apologising to several former Supreme Court judges who were sacked under his predecessor Dr Mahathir Mohamad for a high-profile ruling where Umno was deregistered.

Editors of the book, political analysts Bridget Welsh and James Chin, are also expected to speak on Abdullah's years in office.

The book, which opens with an interview of Abdullah, more fondly known as Pak Lah, had generated a firestorm as the normally quiet former premier addressed his critics, including Mahathir who had sought to unseat him.

Abdullah's critical reaction to Mahathir had set tongues wagging about his future in Umno, and was further fuelled when the initial launching was scheduled to be graced by PKR's Lembah Pantai MP Nurul Izzah Anwar.

Abdullah later sought to put speculation to rest, stating that he was merely giving his piece on an academic study of his administration and was still loyal to Umno.

The editors also announced a postponement of the August launching, citing the controversy that had been generated in the media.

Despite the delayed launching, the book has already hit bookshelves and is on the list of top 10 bestsellers of several bookstores.

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