

Abdullah to launch book on Indians in Malaysia
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SHAH ALAM - Former Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is scheduled to launch a book, titled "National Development Plans and Indians in Malaysia: A Need for Comprehensive Policies and Effective Delivery" next week.

The book, written by Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, a policy research advocate, will be launched at the Malaysian Integrity Institute in Kuala Lumpur on Dec 17.

It provides a comprehensive record of public policy documents based on policy outcomes in addressing the concerns of the Indian community especially of those at the bottom 30 to 40 per cent of the socio-economic ladder.

Denison said the book also provides a historical review of how the federal government responded to these documents through subsequent policy and programme interventions.

"The release of all these documents in a single volume reveals the articulation of Indian concerns. Some of the sections in the book will also reveal the policy response and commitment of the federal government in addressing these concerns," he told Bernama.

The 350-page book, written in the national language and English, is divided into four parts and contains thirty chapters based on work undertaken between 1999 to 2010.

It is a compilation of a series of feedback from the Economic Planning Unit (EPU) in the Prime Minister's Department and the MIC, the largest Indian-based political party in the country.

The book will be sold at RM30 per copy.

Denison, who is former Suhakam commissioner, said that Malaysia had effectively undertaken the formulation of public socio-economic policies through a five year development plan.

"While this dimension is primarily the role of federal government agencies such as the EPU, the planning process has also creatively incorporated community input, analysis and feedback," he added.

Meanwhile, Founding Director of Institute of Ethnic Studies (KITA) from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Prof Datuk Dr Shamsul Amri Baharuddin said that although the book highlighted mainly Indian cases, it casts a wider intellectual and analytical net and raises many pertinent questions that others could take a cue from.

"The book fills the critical gap in our knowledge about the feedback process in our development planning effort," he added. - Bernama

