

Najib: Understand past events to appreciate policies

PUTRAJAYA Malaysians should learn the history of the nation's politics to appreciate the reasons for certain government policies.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said Malaysians should learn about both good and bad events in the country's past to understand the proper context of why the events happened, and why certain decisions were made.

"It is important to know the underlying thinking behind critical public policies and decisions," Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday.

"Only by understanding the philosophy can we ensure they are carried out within the right context and according to the intentions of the decisions."

Najib was speaking at the launch

of Volume 11 of *The Encyclopedia of Malaysia - Government and Politics*.

The 152-page book covers Malaysia's political history from 1940 to 2006, including the May 13, 1969 riots and the resulting policies and political developments.

Najib said Malaysians had to improve their knowledge of history in order to contribute to the nation's future.

"This book will be an important resource of knowledge as the Government tries to build up a knowledge economy. We should use both the good and bad in history to avoid future mistakes," he added.

The Encyclopedia of Malaysia is a 16-volume series compiled by 400 authors and editors from re-

search institutions, government bodies and private organisations.

The New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd, which contributed archival material, is one of the private sector sponsors.

The first 10 volumes of the encyclopedia were published between 1998 and 2005, and are about the environment, plants, animals, early history, architecture, the seas, early modern history, performing arts, languages and literature, and religions and beliefs.

Chairman of the Encyclopedia's editorial advisory board Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji, said there were five more volumes to the series. They are on peoples and traditions, the economy, crafts and the visual arts, the Malay sultanates, sports and recreation.