

Learn from past mistakes, Najib tells Malaysians

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysians should know the country's history and learn from past mistakes made by individuals to ensure that the same mistakes are not repeated.

"We should learn from history, not only the good decisions but also the bad ones. We must have the capacity to understand the reason behind a decision," Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said yesterday when launching Volume 11 of *The Encyclopedia of Malaysia* titled "Government and Politics" and the encyclopedia's official website www.encyclopedia.com.my

He said that Malaysians should read a lot to gain more knowledge and strengthen their intellectual capacity to contribute towards nation-building.

He said that by enhancing their intellect they would be

able to function better.

The 9th Malaysia Plan has renewed emphasis on development of human capital and education, he said, adding that outstanding Malaysians would help take the country to greater heights.

Najib said the publication of the book was timely as the country was in the midst of implementing the second phase of Vision 2020, which placed greater emphasis on human capital and acquiring more knowledge.

Najib launched the first five volumes of the encyclopedia in 1998 when he was Education Minister.

Editorial Advisory Board chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid said 39 authors with 1,000 archival and coloured illustrations contributed information for the 152-page Volume 11, published by Edi-

tions Didier Millet.

He said there were five more volumes to be published to complete the encyclopedia series. They were: "Peoples and Traditions," "The Economy," "Crafts and the Visual Arts," "The Malay Sultanates," and "Sports and Recreation."

The earlier 10 volumes were on the environment, plants, animals, early history, architecture, the seas, early modern history, performing arts, language and literature, and religions and beliefs.

Priced at RM95, Volume 11 was sponsored by corporate bodies such as Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Star Publications (M) Bhd, Malayan Banking Bhd, Sime Darby Bhd, DRB-Hicom Group, Petronas Bhd, New Straits Times Press (M) Bhd and YTL Corporation, among many others.