



Students from SM Putrajaya 1&3 reading some of the material on Malaysia's former prime ministers at the Perdana Library and Research Centre.

Library with more than just books

By GEETHA KRISHNAN
Photos by RAJA FAISAL HISHAN

LEGACIES exist in many forms. The newly-launched Perdana Library and Research Centre at the Perdana Leadership Foundation in Precinct 8, Putrajaya is an example.

Launched by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently, the library is an archive filled with policies, programmes and visions of the nation's past four premiers - Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Abdul Razak, Tun Hussein Onn and Dr Mahathir.

It also stands as a comprehensive resource centre detailing political, social and economic developments and upheavals since Independence. One of the library's missions is to collect materials of interest to the nation to feed researchers, authors, scholars and students.

It was set up with the hope that Malaysians would benefit from its resources and help sow seeds of patriotism for their country.

The foundation that helps the library was established with the support of 26 corporations and individuals who contributed RM1mil each. Petronas was the biggest contributor, its amount totalling more than RM3mil.

Speaking at the launch, board of trustees chairman Tan Sri Azizan Zainul Abidin said when a proposal for a foundation to acknowledge Dr Mahathir's contributions to the nation was presented, the then Prime Minister suggested that it included all former premiers.

"The foundation is drawing up a number of programmes for waTga emas to help us in recording events that have become the nation's history. We urge Malaysians who have documents of historical value to let us have them.

"The board is also planning to establish an endowment that will help sustain the foundation and to ensure continuous funding for its operations," he added.

Azizan said the Perdana Library was modelled on the Scripps Library, a renowned private sector-funded library on the United States' polices.

Perdana's collection includes books, monographs, serials and articles, news clippings, video footage, speeches, lectures and interviews, policy papers, photographs and poems.

Services at the library include online access through library.perdana.org.my: online loan/reservation, counter loans, electronic or document delivery, selective dissemination of information, information services and research and packaged information.

The library is at 1, Jalan P8H, Precinct 8, Putrajaya. For details, call 03-8885 8940.



Azizan presenting a souvenir to Dr Mahathir.