



Kadir (left), Nik Mohamed and Prof Khoo looking at the poster of the essay contest at the Perdana Leadership Foundation in Putrajaya.

Chance to win a car via contest

SECONDARY school students and undergraduates could walk away with a Proton Savvy, a Modenas scooter or a mountain bike by sharing their views on Malaysia's nation-building history.

Organised by the Perdana Leadership Foundation, *Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders* essay contest is open to Malaysian students.

The contest is divided into three categories and the essays can be written in English or Bahasa Malaysia.

Lower secondary (Form One to Three) students are to submit essays on the contribution of one of Malaysia's past prime ministers (700 to 1,000 words).

Upper secondary (Form Four to Six) students are to focus on methods to develop a united Malaysian nation (1,000 to 1,500 words).

For undergraduates (up to the age

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of 25), their essays must highlight five lessons learnt from Malaysia's history (from Merdeka to the present day) in 1,500 to 2,000 words.

The panel of judges are Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Khoo Kay Kim from Universiti Malaya, Berita Publishing Sdn Bhd editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasim and former *Business Times* editor Hardev Kaur.

"The language used in the essay should be accurate and persuasive. It should also show evidence of research and how the writer intelligently gathers the information and interprets the data in an analytical way," said Prof Khoo.

The historian also added that history should not be viewed as a boring subject.

"We are asking the young ones to reflect how they get to be where they are today. This is an opportunity for

them to discuss the issues that are close to our heart and society and win some attractive prizes," said the foundation's chief executive officer Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob.

Other prizes up for grabs are iPods, mobile phones, laptops, MPH book vouchers and savings certificates.

"It would be useful if the heads of schools and institutes of higher education learning could promote the contest to their students," said Kadir.

Students are encouraged to visit Perdana Library and use the resources as reference when writing the essay.

Shortlisted participants will be contacted for an interview.

The Star and *Utusan Malaysia* are the official media partners for the contest.

For more information, log on to Perdana Leadership Foundation's website at www.perdana.org.my