

THE STAR

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New book to feature original constitution

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Readers also get to learn about
milestones in nation's 50 years

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysians

will get to see the country's first constitution, with an upcoming publication by the National Heritage Department.

"Yes, the edition is as it was in 1957, before all of the 43 amendments came into operation," said Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

He said he was sure this Merdeka constitution would be a collector's item, and he hoped the book would be ready by Aug 31.

Dr Rais said this in his speech to launch the book *Constitutional Landmarks in Malaysia: The First 50 Years 1957-2007* here last night.

The book, published by LexisNexis Malaysia and the Malayan Law Journal, provides an analysis of how the Malaysian constitution had evolved over the past 50 years.

Two constitution experts, Prof Andrew Harding and Professor H.P. Lee, edited the book.

Present at the launch was LexisNexis Malaysia general manager Phillip Karuppiah.

Dr Rais said the book allowed the reader to follow many important developments and discussions on law and happenings in Malaysia's five decades of nation-building.

"This work offers history, the dilemma of overload executive power, emergency rule, the sacking of a Lord President and the tumult of the judiciary, the trials and tribulations of (former deputy prime minister) Datuk Seri Anwar

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DATUK SERI DR RAIS YATIM

Ibrahim, contextual federalism, the curtailment of true judicial functions and many more," he said.

Dr Rais, who contributed an article titled *The Road to Merdeka*, said the ministry would buy copies of it for public libraries.

He said his ministry would also reproduce the work *An Introduction of the Malaysian Constitution*, by former Lord President Tun Mohamed Suffian Hashim.

He said these were among efforts taken by the ministry to preserve the country's heritage.

On another matter, Dr Rais said the preparations for the country's 50th National Day were going smoothly as planned.

He said three million Jalur Gemilang have been distributed to various sectors to encourage Malaysians to fly the national flag.