

Contest gets good response

The Star - 21/11/2007

HUNDREDS of students took part in the Perdana Leadership Foundation's (PLF) 2006-2007 *Nurturing the Minds of Future Leaders* essay contest under its Public Outreach Programme.

Targeted at students from secondary schools and tertiary institutions, the contest which ended on Dec 31 last year was divided into three categories: lower secondary, upper secondary and tertiary, with different questions posed for each category.

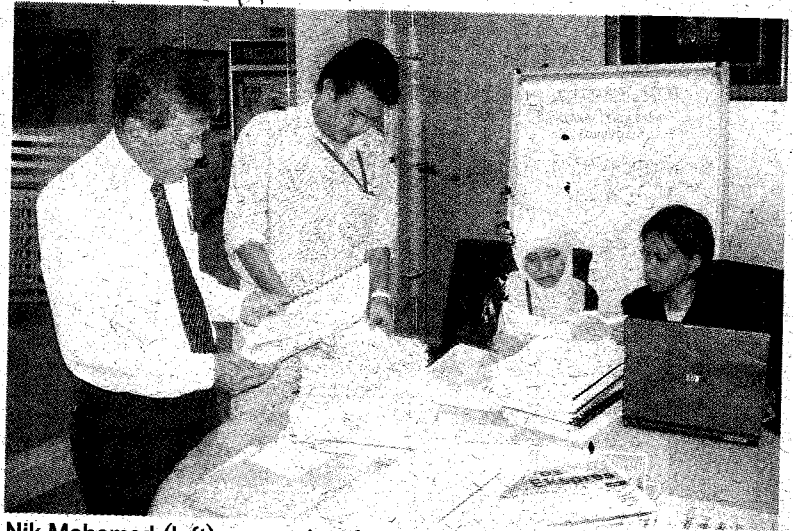
Lower secondary students were asked to submit essays of between 700 and 1,000 words on the contribution of one of Malaysia's past prime ministers.

Upper secondary students were asked for their thoughts on developing a united Malaysian nation (between 1,000 and 1,500 words) while undergraduates had to highlight five lessons that can be learnt from Malaysia's history (between 1,500 and 2,000 words).

"The judges are certainly going to have a hard time selecting the winners," said the foundation's executive director Tan Sri Nik Mohamed Nik Yaacob.

He added that due to the encouraging response, the foundation was considering making the essay contest a biennial event.

The panel of judges are Universiti Malaya Prof Emeritus Datuk Dr Khoo Kay Kim, Berita Publishing



Nik Mohamed (left) overseeing the sorting of entries.

Sdn Bhd editor-in-chief Datuk A. Kadir Jasin and former *Business Times* editor Hardev Kaur.

The essays will be evaluated based on quality of research, quality of analysis and style. Results will be announced in March.

Grand prizes are a Proton Savvy, Modenas scooter and a mountain bike, while other prizes include iPods, laptop computers, savings certificates and book vouchers. Schools whose students win the grand prize also stand to win a computer workstation.

Established in the year 2003, PLF is a non-profit organisation dedicated to Malaysia's leadership history,

highlighting in particular the policies, strategies and contributions of Malaysia's past Prime Ministers.

The foundation preserves, documents and disseminates materials, including speeches, news clippings and magazine articles related to the country's intellectual heritage.

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

Corporate partners include Proton Holdings Bhd, DRB-HICOM Bhd, Maybank, Berjaya Corporation Bhd, Sunway Group, MPH Bookstore Sdn Bhd, AmBank Group, Bank Rakyat and Bumiputra Commerce Bank.