

Book to tell the real story of Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR: The *Chronicle of Malaysia (1957 to 2007)* will tell the events that transpired in Malaysia's passage to adulthood.

"It will relive Merdeka, the Emergency and Confrontation and revel in contemporary gossip about P. Ramlee, Rose Chan and Sudirman," said the book's editorial committee member, Tun Hanif Omar.

It will focus on some of the top crime stories in the five decades – Mona Fendy, who was found guilty of murdering an assemblyman, and gangsters Botak Chin who was hanged, and "Bentong Kali" Kalimuthu.

On sports, there will be reminiscence on the Thomas Cup victories and Malaysia's hosting the Commonwealth Games.

The book, which is under production, will be published in newspaper-style format to take the reader back to the good old days.

"We will not skirt around sensitive issues like May 13, 1969, and the book will state the facts as they happened," Hanif told a press con-

ference to highlight the book.

"The book will tell the real story of Malaysia, capturing the dramatic events.

"It will also try to highlight all the events that took place in the past 50 years," he added.

The book, to be published by Editions Didier Millet, will have photographs and illustrations from a wide variety of sources, including foreign sources and private collections.

"It is a compendium of all aspects of Malaysian life with a sense of vividness and immediacy.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi will launch the book on Nov 5, allowing it to cover events in Malaysia up to and including the 50th anniversary of Independence on Aug 31.

"Hopefully, it will create a sense of nostalgia among older readers, while containing revelations for a younger audience, and is certain to be a much cherished reference and companion for many years to come," Hanif said.