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# Tribute to Wong Pow Nee

Legacy of Penang's first CM to be showcased in gallery set up by son

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**PENANG:** The legacy of Penang's first Chief Minister Tan Sri Wong Pow Nee will be showcased here in a special gallery to be launched this National Day.

Set up by his son Peter, the gallery in Jalan Bawasah will feature hundreds of photos from the late Wong's private collection.

"As they say - a picture paints a thousand words. These photos are a recollection of his patriotic past.

"They include those showing him reading the Proclamation of Independence at the Esplanade in 1957 and later, another proclamation on Malaysia's formation in 1963, also at the Esplanade.

"After going through the photos, I was in awe at how my father, a simple school teacher from Bukit Mertajam, could become a man of great responsibility and repute," he said yesterday.

He said he had only started the project about two months ago and was now rushing to ensure that the gallery's opening was in time for National Day.

"This date not only marked the day my father read out the Merdeka proclamation but also the day he died - on the morning of the 45th year of independence," he added.

Describing Wong as a stern father, Peter said this could be the result of his days as a



*Malaysiaku Gemilang*

scout, which stressed on a strict regime and discipline.

"Even when he became chief minister, he was a staunch supporter of the scouts movement," he added.

Peter said his father mellowed down over the years to become a more jovial person.

Peter will also open a Hakka restaurant, located adjacent to the gallery, offering traditional cuisine such as *tu kar chor*, *ngiong tew foo* and Hakka noodles.

The gallery will open at 11am on Aug 31. Following that, it will be opened from 8am to 7pm on weekdays. Admission is free.

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Song to promote love for the Jalur Gemilang



**Private collection:** Peter adjusting a portrait of his father at the gallery in Jalan Bawasah, Penang. The gallery will open on National Day.