

Going back in time

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Murals trace Malaysia's history

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THERE are many ways to tell a story and Robert Lim chose to use old photographs with the proper captions for his latest work *Malaysia's Struggle for Independence*, a showcase of murals installed at the foyer of Stadium Merdeka.

The 53-year-old photograph restorer said the historical snaps were from his collection and had taken eight years to accumulate.

The photos, dating from 1875 to 1963, were restored, enlarged and put together in a collage with the aid of digital technology to cover the four walls of the foyer. Each mural is at least 10m by 5m in size and tells a visual story of the historical moments leading to the country's independence.

"There is a need to remind people, especially the younger generation, of our struggles. Many of us have forgotten the hard times during the Japanese Occupation, the Communist threat and the Indonesian Confrontation.

"It is my hope that these images will remind the younger generation that the life of a nation doesn't start and end with them," Lim said.

In addition to evoking a sense of nostalgia, Lim hoped that the murals, a depiction of the events which had led Malaysia to its independence, would prompt his countrymen to look back and use the lessons of history as a reference before charting new territories and looking at new ways of doing things.

Lim and his digital artists had taken six months to choose, restore and assemble the photographs in chronological order.

"We had to go back to studying Malaysian history first. That was when we made the decision to start from the year 1875, which was a critical point because of the signing of the Pangkor Treaty, and to end with the formation of Malaysia," Lim explained.

The murals have been divided into different phases, each carrying a theme that depicts the historical events of the

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Textual info: The captions help weave the story around the photographs.



Full regalia:
Tunku Abdul Rahman dressed to the nines.



Hard work:
Lim took about eight years to collect the photographs used in the murals.