

THE STAR

DATE: 7/2/2010

A day in honour of Tunku Abdul Rahman proposed

thestar.com.my - 7/02/2010

ALORSETAR: The Information Communication and Culture Ministry proposes to designate one day in the year as Tunku Abdul Rahman Day in memory of the deeds and struggle of the country's first prime minister, Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said on Sunday.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Day might be observed on Dec 6 beginning this year, he said, adding that various activities would be held on that day including a quiz contest, an essay-writing competition and an exhibition, all related to the life and achievements of the statesman.

Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra passed away on Dec 6, 1990 at the age of 87. He was laid to rest at the Langgar Royal Mausoleum in Alor Setar, Kedah.

Dr Rais said it was important to have such a day because many people did not understand and appreciate the Tunku's ideologies and his significance in the history of the country.

The ministry's five agencies associated with artefacts and history would be tapped to come up with ideas on how to organise Tunku Abdul Rahman Day, he told reporters after launching a mobile exhibition on the Tunku's special collections and catalogues here on Sunday.

Dr Rais said the ministry would ask institutions of higher learning to organise academic studies on Tunku.

"There has yet to be any academic study on the struggles of Tunku Abdul Rahman whose contributions to the country are immense," he said.

He also said that many historical accounts associated with the Tunku had yet to be revealed, including the debate in Parliament at one time in the attendance of both the Tunku and Singapore's Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

"It will not be difficult for the ministry to provide funds for the research to be carried out on Tunku," he said.

He also said the time had come for local academicians and writers to conduct studies on Tunku through academic writing and bring out a pictorial book related to the first Prime Minister.

On another matter, Dr Rais said he would visit the Oxford Centre for Islamic Studies in London next week to discuss the possibility of establishing a chair on the Malay World and Islam at Oxford University. - BERNAMA