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Malaysia Cartoonists Club patron **Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokhles** (centre) and **Datuk Mohammad Nor Khalid's daughter Junaidah Mohammad Nor** (left) at the **Kampung Boy Award** in Menara Wilayah, Putrajaya, yesterday. On the right is **MCC president Mohd Desa Omar**. Pic by Fariz Ismail

PM to honour cartoonists

RECOGNITION: They are heroes who work behind the scenes, says club patron

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak has agreed to present the country's first award to recognise cartoonists' contribution towards Malaysia's nation building on Monday (Oct 12).

Organised by the Malaysia Cartoonists Club (MCC), its patron Datuk Akmar Hisham Mokhles

said the Prime Minister's Office recognised the contributions by local cartoonists to the country.

"They are heroes who usually work behind the scenes and are only known by their pen names instead," he said at the soft-launch of this year's Kampung Boy Award presentation yesterday.

MCC president Mohd Desa Omar said the main prize, the 2015 Kampung Boy award, was named after Datuk Mohammad Nor Khalid,

otherwise known as Lat, for his popular works.

"It is time to recognise the contributions of local cartoonists, especially those whose works revolve around the spirit of nationalism, as well as Malaysian identities and not the emotional ones," he said yesterday.

Desa said he hoped the award ceremony would attract more young cartoonists.

"We will hold a chat session, called An Afternoon with Datuk Lat, scheduled to be held at 4pm on the same day."

Lat's daughter Junaidah Mohammad Nor, who represented

him, said her father believed the role of cartoonists went beyond entertaining the masses.

"Their roles are crucial to building the society. As cartoonists, their job is not merely to make the people laugh. It is more than that," she said.

On Monday, there will be a one-day exhibition to highlight the cartoon, animation and comic sector to people, starting from 9am.

There will also be a workshop for university students on the "Cartoon and Cartoonists, the Challenges and Direction" at the auditorium of Menara Seri Wilayah here.