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NSTP library visit led to independence documentary

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TWO PARTS:

'Road to Nationhood' uses NSTP images

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A VISIT to the New Straits Times Press's library in 2013 has inspired a young filmmaker to produce and direct a two-hour, two-part documentary on the country's road to independence.

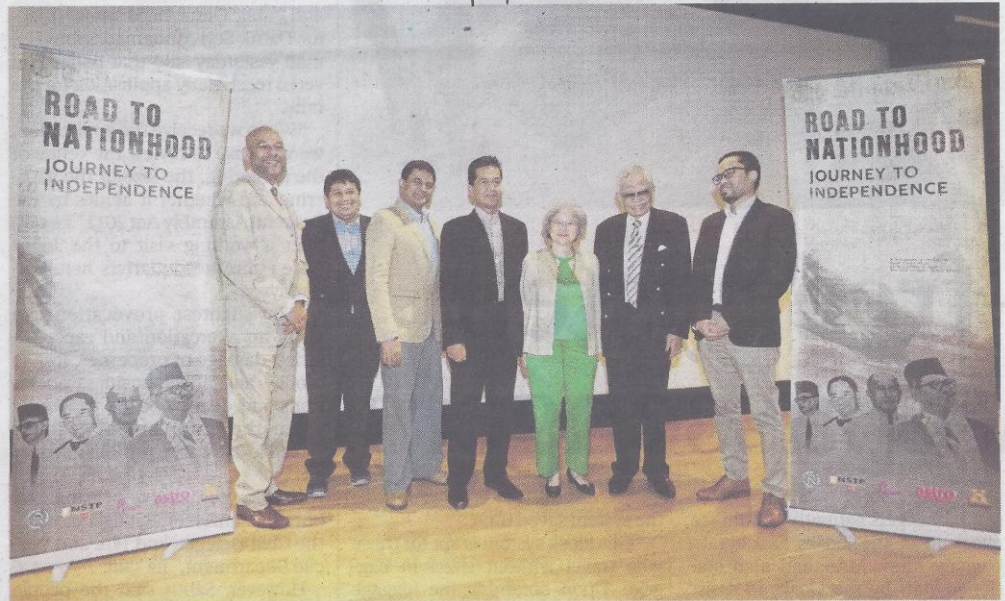
Ahmad Yazid Ahmad Puad of Rack Focus Films said he was going through NSTP Publication's *Road to Nationhood* book three years ago when he came across pictures about events he never heard in history class.

"I am a huge fan of old pictures. Having been raised by a cameraman father, I grew up loving newspapers, documentaries and great storytelling," he said.

The making of the historical documentary, which carries the same title as the book that inspired it, was initially without funding. However, Yazid later received support from the National Film Development Corporation (Finas).

Astro also came on board by screening the documentary on Sept 4 on the History, Prima and Maya HD channels.

The *Road to Nationhood* docu-



(From left) 'Road to Nationhood' narrator **Chacko Vadaketh**, documentary writer **Dzof Azmi**, executive producer **Rob Nevis**, New Straits Times Press Special Project executive editor **Azizi Othman**, Tun Tan Cheng Lock's granddaughter **Datin Paduka Tan Siok Choo**, Datuk Mohd Seth's son **Tan Sri Mohd Ghazali Mohd Seth** and documentary producer and director **Ahmad Yazid Ahmad Puad** at a screening of the documentary at **Platinum Sentral in Kuala Lumpur** yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

mentary is set from the time when the Japanese occupied Malaya in 1941 to the morning of Aug 31, 1957, when Tunku Abdul Rahman Putra Al-Haj declared independence.

Narrated by television personality Chacko Vadaketh, the story uses NSTP's images through visual effects.

It also gives accounts of "untold" stories of the founding fathers, in-

cluding Tunku Abdul Rahman, Tun Tan Cheng Lock, Tun V.T. Sambanthan and Lee Kuan Yew, as narrated by close associates, family and friends.

It also features the voices of Tunku Khadijah Tunku Abdul Rahman, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Umno veteran Tan Sri Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah, Tan's granddaughter Datin Paduka Tan Siok Choo, activist Zainah An-

war and many more.

"The third and fourth parts are in the pipeline, with the documentary ending with the formation of Malaysia in 1963," Yazid said during a special screening of the documentary at Platinum Sentral here, yesterday.

Present were NSTP Special Project executive editor Azizi Othman and the documentary's executive producer, Rob Nevis.