

BIRTHPLACE OF DR M REOPENS TO VISITORS

It has better facilities, such as extra parking and a surau

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PRIME Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's rise from his humble beginnings here has always been an inspiration to many.

The small traditional house in Jalan Kilang Ais in the Seberang Perak enclave here, which was where he grew up, offers a glimpse into his upbringing.

It is a simple house built on stilts with an attap roof and wooden planks for its floor.

It was converted into a museum for tourists and visitors, featuring items that belonged to Dr Ma-

hathir and his family.

But since 2017, Dr Mahathir's birth home was temporarily closed for renovations.

Yesterday, it was reopened to the public, thanks to the work of the National Archives and agreement of Dr Mahathir himself.

Tourism, Arts and Culture Minister Datuk Mohamaddin Ketapi praised all parties involved in the restoration project because it was important that Malaysians learn from Dr Mahathir's humble background.

"Tun Dr Mahathir has always been a great inspiration. There is so much we can learn from him and his origins.

"He came from a humble background, but has a strong belief in himself and his community.

"From this house, he was taught the values that had brought him to where he is now.

"It is good that more Malaysians can come and experience



The Dr Mahathir's House Complex in Jalan Kilang Ais, Seberang Perak, Alor Star. PIC BY SHARUL HAFIZ ZAM

his origins," he said at the reopening event yesterday.

National Archives director-general Datuk Azemi Abdul Aziz said the complex included better facilities for visitors, such as extra parking, a surau and the latest items that highlighted Dr Mahathir's history and achievements.

"After a long period of restora-

tion to upgrade the facilities, we are happy to officially open this house to the public again," said Azemi, adding that the project was to ensure more comfort and accessibility for the public.

He said the reopening would allow visitors, who had ranged from schoolchildren to adults in the past, to return to the tourist spot to learn about Dr Mahathir

and history.

Dr Mahathir's House Complex is located in Lorong Kilang Ais, Seberang Perak, Alor Star.

The place is open between 9am and 5pm from Tuesday to Thursday; and 9am to noon and 3pm to 5pm on Friday.

It is closed on Monday unless it is a public holiday or school holiday.