

**Dr M story hits the shelves**  
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**By Azura Abas**

"But I have to tell the truth. In my opinion, there will be those who feel discontented with what I have written. And there is a culture of suing in our society nowadays."

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday launched his memoir, saying he had tried to avoid hurting anyone in writing it.

"But I have to tell the truth. In my opinion, there will be those who feel discontented with what I have written. And there is a culture of suing in our society nowadays."

"I have to accept it if I am to be sued. If they want to sue, sue-lah," he said after launching *A Doctor in the House: The Memoirs of Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad*.

As at 5pm yesterday, more than 500 copies had been sold at RM100 each at the MPH bookstore outlet in Mid Valley Megamall.

MPH Group Publishing had printed 50,000 copies of the 843-page book, which hit the shelves at its outlets and other book stores nationwide and in Singapore yesterday.

Among those present at the launch were Dr Mahathir's wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, daughter Datin Paduka Marina Mahathir and MPH Group chief executive officer Datuk Ng Tieh Chuan.

Dr Mahathir said it took him eight years to complete the memoir.

"I want people to read it and whatever they think about it is their business."

Asked what his ousted former deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim would say about the autobiography, Dr Mahathir said he was quite sure Anwar had nothing good to say about it and his achievements.

"In fact, he claimed credit for setting up Permodalan Nasional Berhad and the International Islamic University."

On the possibility that friends would turn to enemies after reading the memoir, Dr Mahathir said he had to accept that fact, too.

"If they want to be my enemies, what can I do?"

Earlier, he was asked on Chapter 53, which touched on Anwar.

Dr Mahathir said his former deputy had been a challenging person with whom he had to deal.

On page 698 of the same chapter, Dr Mahathir said: "Anwar should have been the prime minister of Malaysia today. But if he is not, it is because of his own actions.

"He left me no choice but to remove him and I did what I thought was best for the

country.

"I may have made many mistakes, but removing Anwar was not one of them."

Dr Mahathir said his story could serve as a guide to the younger generation.

"The memoir can be a lesson to some but to others, it may be useless."

Asked about the possibility of writing a book on the new Malay dilemma, he said some of the dilemmas had been resolved as more Malays had become rich.

But, he was worried that some had abused their wealth.

On what he had gone through to put the memoir together, Dr Mahathir said it was not an easy task.

"There are several chapters which I found hard to write as I was writing about myself and I didn't want to be seen as promoting myself or to sound boastful."

He said it took him eight years to write it because he was quite critical with what he had written.

"Mind you, I write long hand. I don't type, that's why it took such a long time."

On the title for his memoir, Dr Mahathir said it best described who he was. "I am a doctor, that is who I am and I will always be a doctor."

Asked whether he realised that the launch date was three years to the day that Barisan Nasional suffered an electoral setback, Dr Mahathir said he never related the launching to anything.

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