

Value Artifacts As National Treasure - Museums D/G
Bernama
August 23, 2011
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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 23 (Bernama) -- The younger generation should treasure artifacts which depict a country's historical journey, especially those who played a role in fighting for the nation's independence.

Department of Museums Malaysia director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ismail reasoned that with greater appreciation of the artifacts, the younger generation would understand the struggle and sacrifices of generations past, for the nation.

"With indepth understanding, patriotism could be imbued into this generation," he told Bernama here in a recent interview.

The National Monument, he said, might not be an artifact inside a museum. Nevertheless, it is an important heritage for generations to come, to remember and treasure.

Ibrahim said, as the National Monument commemorated the deeds of our warriors who sacrificed their lives in defending the country, the younger generations should feel and understand why the warriors made the sacrifice.

"Our warriors sacrificed their lives so that their grandchildren, namely the current younger generation, could enjoy freedom in an independent nation and as such, they must embrace the spirit behind the National Monument," he added.

Ibrahim said the department had a collection of items on the nation's life journey, including the table on which the agreement of independence of the country was signed.

"Through the museum, we organised exhibitions to display the artifacts, besides setting up a special corner at the museum. Apart from artifacts, we also use pictures and articles to narrate, in detail, the subject concerned," he said.

Apart from the ongoing event, 'Exhibition of the Unsung Heroes' at Matang Museum in Perak (Aug 9 to Nov 30), he said other exhibitions included the 'Exhibition on Independence: Before and After', organised by Museum Negara from Sept 15 to Oct 16.

"Independence was achieved, not only by those who negotiated but also those who worked behind the scenes, such as journalists and writers who fired the spirit of the people for a free country," he said.

Private college student Amirul Danial Hakim, 21, said a photography assignment he did last year on the National Monument made him understand the sacrifices of generations past.

"My assignment required me to take as many (photography) angles of the National Monument, and after studying the pictures, I could relate to their selfless deeds," he said.

He said, since the National Warriors Day celebrations were moved to Putrajaya last year, the National Monument looked somewhat quiet. He hoped more activities could be held at the National Monument to engage the younger generation.

US tourist Marian Cartwright, 48, who was on holiday with her husband, Stan, 57, and their two children, said Malaysians should be proud of the artifacts left behind for their heritage.

"It is sad to think of the young people in this country who are unaware of what they have inherited. From what I see, Malaysia has numerous artifacts to tell the story of the country's rise...so, all Malaysians should appreciate what they have," she said.

She said, there should be more activities to bring the younger generations closer to these artifacts, such as 'A Night in the Museum', which was popular in her country.

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