

**Sultan Perak Launches Biography Of Childhood Friend
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Perak Sultan Azlan Shah Sunday launched a biography of his childhood friend, Datuk Seri N. S. Selvamany, written and produced by the latter's former students here.

The book on the former economics teacher of the Anderson School Ipoh, titled 'Selvamany: More Than A Teacher', is written by Dr Rokiah Talib, Karyawan Tamu (Guest Writer) with the University Kebangsaan Malaysia and former professor at University Malaya Anthropology and Sociology Department.

The publication of the book, which is not for sale, is through contributions from 85-year-old Selvamany's former students.

Selvamany, who was Sultan Azlan Shah's schoolmate while studying at the Batu Gajah Government English School, now known as Sultan Yussuf school, was the Perak Tokoh Guru for 1996 and national-level Tokoh Guru in 1997.

Sultan Azlan Shah, in his message in the book, said: "It is a befitting tribute from a group of students from Anderson School Ipoh (who also garnered the support from fellow Andersonians and students of Sekolah Menengah Idris Shah and Sekolah Menengah Seri Teja, Gopeng) who strongly believe that their teacher has made an indelible impression on their lives and helped mould them in preparation to face the challenges of the modern world.

"It appears that Selvamany is carrying on the legacy of his grandfather (Malaiperumal Pillay who founded the Sultan Yussuf school), evident in his deep passion for education.

"Indeed, he is the embodiment of the teaching profession, not only a gifted teacher, but more than that, he cares deeply for his students and to the point of regarding them as his own children," he said.

Also present were Raja Permaisuri Perak Tuanku Bainun, Raja Muda Perak Raja Dr Nazrin Shah and Raja Puan Besar Perak Tuanku Zara Salim.

Many of his former students who were and are top civil servants, politicians, judges and corporate big-wigs were also present. They included Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Pro-Chancellor Tan Sri Nuraizah Abdul Hamid, who is chairman of the organising committee of the book launch, Gua Musang Member of Parliament Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah and former Bernama chairman Datuk Seri Mohd Annuar Zaini.

Nuraziah, in her welcoming speech, said the biography was not just a chronological representation of Selvamany's life and career as a teacher, but an attempt by the writer to define the many dimensions of his unique personality.

Selvamany, who was accompanied by his wife, Datin Seri Poovayee, and their children at the event, will celebrate his 86th birthday tomorrow.

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