

Dr Mahathir An Extraordinary Leader Because He Is An Avid Reader, Says Muhyiddin
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 14 (Bernama) -- Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reading habit has made him a visionary, knowledgeable and extraordinary leader, to the extent of enabling the country's development and progress to stand the test of time, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

While calling on the people to emulate the quality possessed by Dr Mahathir, Muhyiddin said in depth reading on various fields would definitely give a positive impact to the people's mindset and action, especially in Malaysia's bid to achieve the status of a fully-developed nation.

Describing the appointment of the former prime minister as the National Reading Icon as very apt, he said Dr Mahathir's diligent reading habit had also made him a distinguished thinker and initiator of ideas for development.

"Today, we can see the former prime minister's farsightedness in building the base for the country's development, which has stood the test of time.

"For example, the Penang Bridge, which was once deemed by the opposition as a waste of money, has proved to be a huge contributor to the state's development. "So is Putrajaya, which the opposition accused to be another of Dr Mahathir's 'white elephant' project and a waste of people's money. The opposition used to say that they'll put Putrajaya on auction if they gain power, but now, we only hear them chanting 'Road To Putrajaya'."

Muhyiddin said this while launching the National Reading Icon and 1Malaysia Values Nurturing campaign at the National Library here today.

During the ceremony, Dr Mahathir who is known to love books, was appointed as the third National Reading Icon after Datuk Michelle Yeoh in 2010 and National Astronaut Datuk Dr Sheikh Muszaphar Shukor Al-Masrie (2009).

His appointment was on the suggestion of Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim.

Also present were Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Rais and wife, Datin Seri Masnah Rais, Rais's deputies Datuk Joseph Salang and Datuk Maglin Dennis D'Cruz and National Library director-general Datuk Raslin Abu Bakar.

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