

Dedicated to memory of Onn Jaafar
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HISTORY AND HERITAGE: A gallery has been set up at the national hero's former home in Batu Pahat

BATU PAHAT: A SPECIAL gallery has been set up to honour the memory of national hero, Datuk Onn Jaafar.

The Gallery Datuk Onn Jaafar is located at his former home in Jalan Kluang, here.

State Rural and Regional Development, Arts, Culture and Heritage committee chairman, Asiah Md Arif, said the gallery, which was mooted in 2007 by the Johor Heritage Foundation, cost RM600,000 to set up.

It was completed in 2007. Onn was also the seventh Menteri Besar of Johor.

"It was at this home that Onn led several leaders towards forming the Johor Malay Movement.

"In May 11, 1946, he also organised a gathering of Malay leaders for the formation of Umno to go against Malayan Union and unite for the liberation of the country," said Asiah.

"Umno at that time was known as Pertubuhan Kebangsaan Melayu Bersatu (Pekembar) and had enjoyed the support of the British until the latter formed Malayan Union."

Asiah said that today, the historical building that houses the gallery has become a landmark for visitors here. She added that students at all levels should make it a point to visit the gallery, which includes several of Onn's private collection.

"I hope the local residents will also make an effort to visit the gallery and tell their friends about it so that more people will get to know our country's history," she said.

The gallery is open daily, from 9am to 5pm, except on Fridays.

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