



MAN OF MANY DEEDS: Tun Mahathir launching the biography at Hotel Equatorial.

Dr Mahathir : I am busier now

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BANGI, Fri. — Nearly one year into retirement, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad says he is busier than ever and can't sit down to begin writing his memoirs just yet.

"Now I am busy writing speeches. So many places ask me to make speeches. I use long hand, not a word processor," was his answer for the delay.

Launching the biography of former Telekom Malaysia Executive Chairman Tan Sri Rashdan Baba here today, Dr Mahathir said he now had more work to do compared with the time he was in Government.

Nevertheless, Dr Ma-

hathir, who left office on Oct 31, last year after 22 years at the helm, said he would appreciate if those in possession of any piece of information or material connected to him could pass it over.

Such items, he said, would facilitate research for his memoirs.

Dr Mahathir said he always urged those with vast experience to put it down in writing so that future generations would be able to learn from them.

Not many books were written by the Malays on the various phases of the country's history, including the "Emergency" period.

He said the fact that it was

an extraordinary event dawned upon him when former South African President Nelson Mandela once asked how the government succeeded in defeating the guerilla movement.

Published by Penerbit UKM, the 22-chapter biography on Negeri Sembilan-born Rashdan traces his illustrious career in various learning institutions and corporations.

His is a story that could inspire young Malaysians — a PhD for his research in agronomy from Leeds University at the age of 28, becoming the principal of the Malaya Agriculture College at 29. — Bernama