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MAHATHIR-LIBRARY  
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KUALA LUMPUR, MARCH 20 (BERNAMA) - THE EDUCATION MINISTRY WISHES TO MAKE THE FEDERAL CAPITAL THE MAIN CENTRE FOR STOCKING MALAY LITERARY WORKS OF THE REGION, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY. (P)

HE URGED LIBRARIES PARTICULARLY THE NATIONAL LIBRARY TO MAKE MORE EFFORTS TO OBTAIN COMPLETE COLLECTIONS OF MALAY LITERARY AND CULTURAL WORKS OF THE REGION.

OPENING THE MALAYSIAN LITERATURE DOCUMENTATION SEMINAR AT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HERE, HE SAID THAT THIS WOULD OBIVATE THE NECESSITY OF MALAYSIAN RESEARCHERS GOING TO CORNELL OR LEIDEN TO STUDY MALAYSIAN CULTURE.

"I AM CONFIDENT THAT WITH THE CO-OPERATION OF LIBRARIANS AND WRITERS, THIS ASPIRATION WOULD BE ACHIEVED," HE SAID.

DR. MAHATHIR, WHO IS ALSO THE EDUCATION MINISTER, SAID LIBRARIES IN MALAYSIA STILL MATERIALS IN BAHASA MALAYSIA.

HE HOWEVER ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS A SHORTAGE OF PUBLICATIONS IN BAHASA MALAYSIA. --BERNAMA MORE 1211/LK

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HE HOPED WRITERS WOULD PRODUCE MORE BOOKS BUT NOT LIMIT THEIR WORKS TO TEXTBOOKS AND LITERATURE ONLY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THERE WERE FEW MATERIALS ON NATIONAL LITERATURE. APART FROM THE "DEWAN SASTERA" MAGAZINE PUBLISHED BY THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA, WHICH CONCETRATED ON LITERARY WORKS, LOCAL NEWSPAPERS PROVIDED LITTLE SPACE TO SUCH WORKS.

"THEREFORE WE HEAR OF COMPLAINTS ON FAVOURITISM, AND OTHER

GROUSES AMONG YOUNG WRITERS WHOSE WORKS ARE NOT PUBLISHED," HE SAID. 270

DR. MAHATHIR SUGGESTED THAT THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF PUBLISHING ANOTHER MAGAZINE FOR LITERARY WORKS.

THE LANGUAGE, CULTURE AND LITERATURE INSTITUTE OF THE UNIVERSITI KEBANGSAAN COULD STUDY THE PROBLEM OF SHORTAGE OF MAGAZINES ON LITERATURE, HE SAID -- BERNAMA MORE 1217/LK

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DR. MAHATHIR PRAISED GAPENA AND THE MALAYSIAN LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION (PPM) FOR THEIR INITIATIVE IN ORGANISING THE SEMINAR TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEMS OF LITERATURE STUDIES ESPECIALLY NATIONAL LITERATURE.

HE ALSO COMMENDED PPM FOR ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIBRARIANS AND LIBRARIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND ITS SUCCESS IN INSTILLING THE INTEREST TO READ AMONG THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID THE EDUCATION MINISTRY HAD RECEIVED A MEMORANDUM FROM PPM RECENTLY CALLING FOR THE SETTING UP OF A SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP FOR POST-GRADUATE STUDIES.

+HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE PROPOSED CENTRE HAS NOT BEEN SET UP YET.+ - BERNAMA 1220/HS