

MAHATHIR-WRITERS

BM

KUALA LUMPUR, OCT. 23 (BERNAMA)-- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD URGED LOCAL WRITERS TONIGHT TO WRITE IN BAHASA MALAYSIA IN SUCH A WAY THAT IT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY ALL THE PEOPLE.

HE SAID BAHASA MALAYSIA WAS THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE COUNTRY AND AS SUCH IT WAS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF LOCAL WRITERS TO WRITE ABOUT THINGS THAT COULD BE UNDERSTOOD BY THE PEOPLE IN THAT LANGUAGE.

ONLY THROUGH THIS WOULD THE PEOPLE IN THE COUNTRY NOT BE CUT OFF FROM KNOWLEDGE, HE SAID AT A DINNER TO RAISE MONEY FOR THE DERMACIPTA FUND, ORGANIZED BY THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA (DBP) HERE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT TO ACHIEVE THAT AIM, MORE WRITERS SHOULD COME FORWARD AND WRITE IN +THEIR OWN LANGUAGE FOR THEIR OWN COMMUNITY+.

APART FROM THAT, HE SAID, MORE FOREIGN WORKS SHOULD BE TRANSLATED INTO BAHASA MALAYSIA. -- MORE 2350/OM

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HE WAS CONFIDENT THAT IN FUTURE IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING TO SEE MALAYSIAN WRITERS PRODUCING BOOKS THAT WERE COMPARABLE WITH THE WORKS OF FOREIGN WRITERS.

EARLIER, DBP DIRECTOR-GENERAL DATUK HAJI HASSAN AHMAD SAID THAT THE DERMACIPTA FUND WAS AIMED AT PROVIDING ASSISTANCE IN THE FORM OF +DEVELOPMENT COSTS+ TO ENABLE WRITERS PRODUCE THEIR WORK OR MANUSCRIPTS.

HE SAID THAT THROUGH THE FUND IT WAS ALSO HOPED THAT THE QUALITY OF WRITING IN THE FIELD OF KNOWLEDGE COULD BE IMPROVED TO BENEFIT THE PUBLIC.

+WE WANT OUR SCIENTISTS, KNOWLEDGE EXPERTS AND ACADEMICIANS TO WRITER FOR EVERYONE AND NOT JUST A SELECT GROUP,+ HE SAID.

PRESENT WERE TRADE AND INDUSTRY MINISTER TENGGU AHMAD RITHAUDDEEN, CULTURE, YOUTH AND SPORTS MINISTER ANWAR IBRAHIM, NATIONAL AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER DATUK SANUSI JUNID AND FEDERAL TERRITORY MINISTER DATUK SHAHRIR ABDUL SAMAD. -- BERNAMA