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### Campaign to boost reading stepped up

PENANG, Wed. - Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon today appealed for donations of books for the benefit of the people, especially the younger generation, living in rural areas.

He said the availability of books was often taken for granted in the urban areas which had many book resources like stores and good libraries. But those living in rural areas often lacked good reading material.

Koh said there was no question about the importance of reading and inculcating the reading habit, especially among the younger generation, as reading was the key to knowledge and skills.

He said even with the arrival of the Information Technology age where the computer and the Internet were becoming popular, books would continue to be an important source of knowledge for at least a few decades.

He was launching a book donation campaign organised by the State Rural Development Council at the Dewan Sri Pinang.

During the campaign to be held until Oct 6, the council hopes to collect at least 100,000 books for distribution to rural libraries and reading centres.

Those wishing to donate books can drop them off at collection centres set up at all Petronas service stations or any Pos Malaysia office in the State.

The campaign, launched simultaneously in all States today, is a follow-up of the national-level campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last week.

Koh launched the campaign by first donating two piles of books from his personal library, and then receiving book donations from other donors including Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar who is also campaign chairman, State Executive Councillors, and representatives of various organisations.

Meanwhile, Mohd Shariff said donors should ensure that the books they donated would benefit those who read them.

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