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Don't donate outdated books, says library chief

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - People should not treat the Book Donation Campaign as an opportunity to dump their outdated reading materials, National Library director-general Datin Mariam Abdul Kadir said yesterday.

Outdated textbooks and other reading materials of no benefit could not be distributed to the public as this would defeat the purpose of the campaign, she added.

However, she said some "old" books and especially magazines such as National Geographic were still relevant even today and could be donated.

"We need the full support of the public to make a success of such noble campaigns," she told reporters after the Commonwealth: Surge to the Next Millennium exhibition launch at the library.

The campaign launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 5, is organised by Astro and Petronas in association with the Rural Development Ministry, Pos Malaysia Bhd, National Library and Radio Televisyen Malaysia. It will end on Sept 30.

Under the scheme, the public can drop off new and used books at Petronas service stations or Pos Malaysia offices throughout the country.

Books collected will be distributed by Pos Malaysia, Astro and Petronas to identified charitable homes and 1,001 reading centres and libraries nationwide.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth exhibition focuses on all aspects of the Commonwealth Federation, including its history, activities and general information on the 54 member-countries with a special focus on Malaysia.

Throughout the exhibition which ends on Sept 30, visiting hours are from 10am to 6pm on Tuesday through Thursday, Friday- 10am to 8pm, Saturday- 9am to 8pm and Sunday 10am to 5pm. The library is closed on Monday and public holidays.

The exhibition is part of the ongoing Commonwealth Festival to be held from now until December. Other festivals include the Malaysian Cultural Festival, Sports Village Festival, Dataran Merdeka Festival and the Commonwealth Cultural Festivities.

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