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Book-Campaign

ECONOMIC DOWNTURN NOT HAMPERING LIBRARY DEVELOPMENT

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 12 (Bernama) -- Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad said today the economic downturn is not hampering state government's efforts to set up libraries in the state.

"Today we have more than 50 rural libraries in addition to the state and district libraries," he told reporters after launching the state-level book donation campaign, here.

He said the state government would continue to develop library facilities in the rural in encouraging the people to take up reading.

Wan Mokhtar also urged Parents/Teachers Associations to provide list of books needed by their respective school libraries to the parents.

During the month-long campaign, members of the public could hand over books at any Petronas station or post office in the state.

In KUANTAN, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said he expected not less than 100,000 reading materials to be collected from the campaign.

He also urged the people to make it a habit to read before going to bed or during their free time.

The national level campaign was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur on Aug 5.

The campaign is jointly organised by Community Development Department, Petronas and Pos Malaysia Berhad.

State Rural Development and Growth Centre Committee Chairman Datuk Omar Othman who is also chairman of the campaign committee in Pahang said members of the public could donate any book in any language during the period.

In PULAU PINANG, Chief Minister Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon said books would continue be source of information and knowledge for several more decades to come especially in rural areas which lack computer facilities.

"As such, it is important for us to stock up our libraries in the kampungs with various types of reading materials," he said when launching the campaign.

Koh said there was also a need to inculcate reading habit among the rural people especially the younger generation.

He also called on the private sector to come forward to donate books during the campaign.

Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Mohd Shariff Omar who is also state campaign committee chairman said they hoped to collect 100,000 books during the campaign which would end on Oct 6.

In KANGAR, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim hoped the people would avoid obscene and slanderous materials as they did not contribute to healthy mental development.

Such reading materials should have no place in a civilised society, he told reporters after launching the campaign.

Shahidan said the people should go for quality reading materials.

He also said he and other Members of Parliament in the state would donate RM20,000 to the state organising committee to buy quality books for libraries in the state.

-- BERNAMA

AD ABG