

15 AUG 1998

Books

GIVE ONLY USABLE BOOKS, SAYS NATIONAL LIBRARY CHIEF

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- Members of the public intending to donate books during the on-going book donation campaign have been advised not to give away useless school textbooks.

They would only cause extra work of separating them from usable ones, said National Library director-general Datin Mariam Abdul Kadir.

The public should not take advantage of the campaign just to get rid of their junk books and reading materials.

"We've spend much time and energy to separate the usable books from the useless ones. So I sincerely hope the campaign is not used to get rid of your junks," she said.

Mariam told reporters this after the opening of an exhibition on the "Commonwealth:Surging into the new millennium" at the National Library here by Culture, Arts and Tourism Minister Datuk Sabbaruddin Chik, who was represented by ministry secretary-general Datuk Ismail Adam.

The book donation drive, launched last Aug 5 by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, aimed to collect books for distribution to the rural areas.

Earlier in his speech, Sabbaruddin urged society to grasp the history of the Commonwealth and the achievements of its members as background in preparation for next month's 16th Commonwealth Games here.

"The resilience and the progress of the Commonwealth thus far has shown how the institution has successfully strengthened the bond of goodwill and cooperation among member countries," he said in the speech read out by Ismail.

The national library organised the exhibition as part of the Commonwealth cultural festival '98.

The exhibition is open daily from today till Sept 30.

-- BERNAMA

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