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`Help the young to cultivate reading habit'

KUCHING, Wed. - Federal Secretary to Sarawak Datuk Megat Muhaiyadin Megat Hassan today launched a book donation campaign among federal departments, and urged the State's federal officers to emulate Kedah Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid's love for reading.

"He (Sanusi) is a good example and he has has thousands of books.

"It is good for us to know the type of books our leaders, including Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, are reading.

"This will help us keep abreast of the latest developments," he said when launching the campaign at the Federal Complex building. The campaign is organised by the Community Development Department which also acts as a secretariat for federal officers to hand over their donations of books.

Megat Muhaiyadin said it was the responsibility of the parents to encourage their children to take up reading as a habit.

"For a start, it does not matter if children read comic books. Eventually, when they grow up they will go for quality and specialised books or magazines," he said.

Saying that reading meant a life-long education, he said people would be left behind if they did not read.

Earlier, Community Development Department director Latapi Jomel said the donated books would be distributed to rural libraries, orphanages and old folks' homes.

He said many parents in the rural areas could not afford to buy reading materials for their children.

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