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Najib-Multimedia

NAJIB ASKS DBP TO SET UP A MULTIMEDIA UNIT

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has asked the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) to set up a multimedia unit to enhance the dissemination of the Malay Language and literature through multimedia publications.

He said DBP could undertake the publication projects in collaboration with Information Technology (IT) companies.

Through the publications, the DBP could sell copyrighted texts, photographs, illustrations, dramas and songs in the form of CD-Roms, he said.

"If many of the publications are marketed, the people and students will have a wider choice of reading and learning materials to enrich their knowledge in the Malay language and literature," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between DBP and five IT companies here today.

Setting up of the multimedia unit could also complement the smart school programme to be launched next year, he said.

Najib also asked DBP to be involved in the production of softwares for the smart school programme.

Being a store house of knowledge, he urged DBP to intensify its computerisation programme to provide easy access to its data base.

Replying to a question, Najib said his ministry was seeking additional allocation for the smart school programme.

He said the government had allocated RM50 million for the programme.

Asked whether the International Islamic University (IIU) President's post held by Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had been filled, Najib said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked him to take over the duties temporarily.

" In my opinion, it is not appropriate for the Education Minister to be the president of a university because university administrators are required to report to the Education Minister," he said.

He said he was leaving it to Dr Mahathir to decide on who should fill the post.

The post was held by Anwar who was sacked from the government on Sept 2 and expelled from Umno the following day for alleged moral misconduct.

At the function, Najib presented the Tun Syed Nasir Scholarship Awards to three students pursuing Malay Language and Literature studies in local universities.

Twelve students had received the awards since it was launched by DBP in 1993.

-- BERNAMA

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