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Parliament-Publications

323 BOOK PUBLICATIONS BANNED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 14 (Bernama) -- A total of 323 book publications were banned under the Printing Presses and Publications Act 1984 from 1993 to 1997, the Dewan Rakyat was told today.

Of the number, 132 were Chinese publications, Prime Minister Minister and Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in a written reply to Badrul Hisham Abdul Aziz (BN-Hulu Langat) who wanted to know how serious the problem of poison-pen letters and pornographic book publications was.

Dr Mahathir said the matter was not worrisome.

He said poison-pen letters only surfaced during seasons like during the general election or party elections while most of the pornographic publications were brought into the country illegally.

He said books in the market were constantly monitored for their contents.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, in a written reply to Abdul Rahman Sulaiman (BN-Parit Buntar), said the ministry had so far received 12 applications for tax exemption on money brought into the country.

To encourage residents to repatriate funds which were kept overseas, the government had on May 20 announced tax exemption for monies brought back before Dec 31 this year.

On the external position of the banking system, Anwar said the banking system's net external liabilities had dropped by RM13.7 billion between end of June last year and end of May this year.

-- BERNAMA

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