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Najib-Literature

LITERATURE BECOMES SUBJECT COMPONENT FOR B. MALAYSIA NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, July 21 (Bernama) -- Literature will become a component in the Malay and English Language subjects next year to expose all secondary school students to literary works.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak announced today that all students in forms one and four would be compelled to learn literature as a component in both language subjects beginning in March.

"The move to introduce the Malay literature component is aimed at generating more interest among students to read, to encourage them to evaluate and make criticism on literary works, to produce creative and critical writers as well as having spiritual and intellectual strength," he said.

Speaking at a press conference at his ministry, Najib said the efforts were crucial because writers were considered as spokesmen for the community and as the balancing factor towards achieving national vision.

Strengthening the literature component in the English language was aimed at enhancing the students' fluency in the language apart from generating more interest to read as well as enhancing their capability to appreciate aesthetic values and the beauty of the language, he said.

According to the implementation schedule, the literature component in both language subjects would be learned by students in forms two and five in the year 2001 and form three students in the year 2002.

Najib said the ministry planned to have evaluations at the SPM level in the year 2001 and the PMR in the year 2002 for works introduced.

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's sadness over the achievement of Malay students in education which was still lagging far behind, Najib hoped there would be a change of attitude among students, teachers and parents to enhance the performance of Malay students.

They should fully utilise all the facilities and teaching aids provided by the government to help them achieve the objective.

"Although the achievement of Malay students is improving, they have the potential to achieve better performance if they focus on mastering knowledge," he said.

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