

06 JUL 1999

NEGATIVE IMPACT OF "SHIT" STILL PERVADES, SAYS NAJIB

SINTOK, July 6 (Bernama) -- The negative impact of the novel "Shit" by Prof Datuk Shahnnon Ahmad will still pervade, whether the author apologised or otherwise, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the book in which crude and vulgar language were used would have a negative impact on its readers and that an apology from the author would be meaningless.

Najib, an Umno vice president, said this when asked to comment on the latest development concerning the book. Sunday newspapers reported Shahnnon had tendered an open apology to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad concerning the book but Shahnnon later denied doing so.

"Even if Shahnnon apologised, the negative impact from his work still pervades," he said when met after a National Higher Education Fund Corporation cheque presentation at Universiti Utara Malaysia, Sintok, here.

He said the author had denigrated those in the literary circle and had deviated from Malay culture in coming out with such a book.

-- BERNAMA  
MAN NMO THG