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A VIP storyteller keeps blind pre-school listeners enthralled

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Children love stories, but some young ones at the Malaysian Association for the Blind got a real treat today when the Prime Minister himself read them a story.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spent about 15 minutes reading a Bahasa Malaysia storybook How The Giraffe Got Its Long Neck to blind pre-schoolers and pupils of Sekolah Kebangsaan Pendidikan Khas Cacat Penglihatan Jalan Batu.

The reading programme at the MAB in Brickfields is the first community project organised by Puteri Umno with the party's civil action bureau.

Umno members, including ministers and leaders, are urged to sign up for a reading session with blind children at the MAB.

"Sessions have been held daily in the last month," said Puteri Umno head Azalina Othman Said.

"Today is the Prime Minister's turn."

Earlier, Danial Arif, nine, who was among the group of children read to, gave a thank you speech to the Prime Minister.

"We are very fortunate to have met Datuk Seri and to have him read to us," he said.

Dr Mahathir later toured classrooms and a workshop where the blind make wooden stools with colourful woven nylon seats.

The workshop is run by the Gurney Training Centre which is adjacent to the MAB building.

Centre instructor Joseph Yong said the Prime Minister bought six wooden stools for RM30 each.

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