

FROM YEAR 4 PUPILS TO THOSE IN VARSITY

STUDENTS GET RM100 BOOK VOUCHER TODAY

Mechanism will be made known at 2pm, to include list of recommended titles, says PM

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ALL pupils and students from Year 4 in primary school to tertiary institutions will receive a

RM100 book voucher in phases from today, said Prime Minister

Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim. He said the voucher mechanism would be announced at 2pm today.

“For students, whether they are in national schools, religious schools, vernacular schools, to university students, we will give each a book voucher worth RM100.

“We will begin with pupils in

Year Four to reduce the government’s financial burden.

“It (the voucher) will also be given to students in secondary schools, universities, colleges and teaching institutions,” he said in his speech at the launch of the 2024 Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair (PBAKL) at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

PBAKL began on May 24 and ends on Sunday.

Present were Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir, Domestic Trade and Cost of Living Minister Datuk Armizan Mohd Ali, Deputy Education Minister Wong Kah Woh, Selangor Menteri Besar

Datuk Seri Amirudin Shari, Sabah Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Dr Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif and 2024 PBAKL organising chairman Mohd Khair Ngadiron.

Anwar instructed the Higher Education Ministry to come up with a mechanism for the vouchers to be used at PBAKL.

“I also recommended that a list of suitable books be prepared so that a portion of the voucher is used to purchase these books. Some leeway can be given on the titles they purchase with the remaining amount.

“This is because based on past cases, we have seen that the books selected (by students) tend to be of poor quality,” he said.

He said the recommended books could include classics such as those by national laureates including as Datuk A. Samad Said, Datuk Shannon Ahmad and



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim inspecting a booth at the Kuala Lumpur International Book Fair at the World Trade Centre Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

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“I have always spoken on the importance of fostering an interest in learning.

“Saidina Ali Bin Abi Talib (cousin and son-in-law of the Prophet Muhammad) said knowledge is pleasurable, fosters interest and enriches the mind, and grants us wisdom and blessings,” he said.

He said people have to understand the true meaning of knowl-

edge so that they were not swayed by works or information that brought no benefit.

Zambry said his ministry would discuss the best mechanism to disseminate the book vouchers, and would work with the PBAKL organisers to do so.

This year’s PBAKL is targeting 1.5 million visitors.

It features 972 booths from 241 exhibitors, including 14 exhibitors from Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, India, China, Taiwan and Iran.