

Parliament: RM2 Million Fund Available For Local Writers
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 1 (Bernama) -- The government has allocated RM2 million under a fund for local authors as an initiative to cultivate writing and publish books that will one day become a source of reference, the Dewan Rakyat was told Thursday.

Deputy Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Joseph Salang Gandum said those eligible for the aid include writers, teachers and scholars.

"The fund hopes to help writers publish their manuscripts and also to buy books directly from authors," he said in response to a question from Mohsin Fadzli Samsuri (Bagan Serai-BEBAS).

Mohsin Fadzli wanted to know the steps for the enculturalisation of writing and publishing academic and semi-academic books, as well as commercial writing which are still lacking among teachers and scholars.

Salang said the National Library had also carried out programmes to increase awareness and understanding among authors and publishers on their responsibility to obtain the International Standard Book Number (ISBN) and International Standard Serial Number (ISSN).

He said academic books by local scholars were usually published by publishing cooperatives of their respective universities.

Answering a supplementary question from Datuk Dr Makin @ Marcus Mojigoh (Putatan-BN) on whether the government provided special funds to preserve local or minority languages, Salang said the government has no special funds to publish books in minority languages such as that in Sabah and Sarawak.

However, languages such as Kadazan, Iban, Dusun and others should be preserved so that it is not forgotten in the future.

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