

## **Malaysians Told To Develop Reading And Writing Culture**

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 1 (Bernama) -- Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin said Malaysians should make reading and writing books as part of their culture.

He said the people should take up the suggestion by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) that every country achieved the publication rate of 0.1 per cent of the national population.

"Malaysia now has a population of about 28 million and thus must publish at least 28,000 new book titles. But I am made to understand that the number of publications only reaches 16,000 titles annually," he said when opening the 1Malaysia Book Expo and the International Books Conference 2012 at the Putra World Trade Centre, here Wednesday.

The 1Malaysia Book Expo, organised by the National Book Development Foundation, is being held for six days beginning today.

He said the book industry in Malaysia had yet to reach a satisfactory level such as in Europe, the United States, South Korea and India.

Khaled said Malaysians generally were beginning to like reading and there had been a positive change in terms of reading attitude and habit.

He said that a revision of the Malaysians' Reading Profile 2010 showed that Malaysians aged between 10 years and older read an average of between eight and 12 books a year.

"Those aged between 10 and 40 read eight books a year while those older would read six books a year," he said.

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