

**Learn From Classic Literature On Fall Of Nations, Says Muhyiddin  
Bernama  
May 17, 2012**

KUALA LUMPUR, May 17 (Bernama) -- The people have been urged to learn from history of the fall and decline of nations and civilisations due to power struggle as depicted in classic literature, including the Malay literary works.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said there were lessons to be learned from classic literary works on wars, conflicts and disunity to avoid Malaysia from falling into undemocratic mire of power struggle that deployed dirty tactics and unethical actions.

"There are lessons to be learned from wars, strife or power struggle depicted in literary works such as 'Hikayat Tiga Negara', 'Sejarah Melayu' or 'Hikayat Merong Mahawangsa' so that we will not be strayed into a quagmire that could destroy the country," he said.

Launching the Malay version of the Chinese literature classic 'Romance of the Three Kingdoms', 'Hikayat Tiga Negara' here Thursday, he said the people should take cognisance of lessons from the literary work.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said the people should not destroy unity and cooperation among races that were built over the years.

He said the country's success in achieving independence and forming the Federation of Malaysia on Sept 16, 1963 had been envied by many quarters who were out to deny it through callous behaviour and baseless accusations.

"Hence, we must ensure that the well-being and prosperity that we have achieved are not damaged by irresponsible quarters.

"To maintain the country's political, social and economic stability and resilience, we must reject all forms of extremism either in actions or elements perpetrated by certain quarters who are envious of harmonious relations among various races and rapid development since independence," he said.

'Hikayat Tiga Negara' (San Guo Yan Yi) epic novel narrates the rise and fall of three states, Wei, Shu and Wu in ancient China through protracted wars.

Muhyiddin said five ethical principles mentioned in the novel -- benevolence (ren), solidarity (yi), principle (li), wisdom (zhi) and trust (xin) could be likened to the five pillars of Rukun Negara, the foundation Malaysia's nationhood.

Translated by Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and Persatuan Penterjemahan dan Penulisan Kreatif Malaysia (Perspektif), the novel is priced at RM180 (soft-cover) and RM250 (hardcover).

The novel has been translated into English, French, German, Italian, Dutch, Russian, Japanese and Korean.

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Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v6/newsindex.php?id=666835>

