

PM: Stability has helped our authors to flourish
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AMPLE SPACE: There's room for their creativity

PUTRAJAYA: AUTHORS play an important role in Malaysia's transformation plan to become a high income nation through their creative contribution.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government would continue to give ample room to authors to allow their creativity to flourish.

"The government really appreciates the role played by authors in the country's national transformation plan to become a high income nation.

"The development and achievement of a country should not be judged solely by its per capita income, its economic growth as well as its total exports.

"It should also be judged based on the creative and innovative achievements of its people which will be reflected in the writings of local authors.

"Thus we will always give ample space for authors to continue writing. We will help them, especially the younger generation of authors, to develop their talent. Together we will develop this country we love," said Najib at the launching of 30 original book titles published by the Malaysian Institute Of Translation & Books (ITBM) at Seri Perdana here yesterday.

Najib said Malaysian authors should realise it was the country's success, stability and prosperity that enabled them to spread their creativity in their writings.

"We should learn from the history of Baghdad, Cordoba, Qairuwan, Bashrah and Kufah which prospered during the Islamic civilisation, enabling its citizens to gain so much knowledge that they became more advanced than their predecessors and still more advanced compared with the generations that followed them.

"Yet because of complacency, their civilisation fell, taking along with it all the knowledge and displacing the location of great Islamic civilisation capitals.

"We cannot let the same fate befall our beloved nation. We cannot just sit and let slander overcome fact, reality eclipsed by rights, presumption taking over from knowledge and lies sacrificing truth," he said, while calling for local authors to expand their imagination by exploring the world in order to gain new knowledge they could share with their readers.

"Only by looking and comparing other countries with ours can we become more grateful. We never realise how lucky we are unless we experience a more difficult and backward situation. When we are so used to comfort and wealth, we tend to think all countries have similar situation as us."

Najib later commended ITBM for surpassing the Key Performance Index he had set for them by producing 30 book titles instead of 10 by last month.

On Dec 16, last year Najib told ITBM that books must be published between three and six months after receiving manuscripts from authors.

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