

We will give you ample freedom to pen your ideas, says PM
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PUTRAJAYA: The Government has assured local writers that they will be given freedom in pursuing their work.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in giving the assurance, called on writers to write responsibly.

He said writers should not let their judgment be clouded by slander and lies that would hamper the truth.

"If we allow this to happen, we should not wonder later if we became a nation that could only cry over what we have lost today.

"We must learn from what happened to Baghdad, Cordoba, Qairuwan, Bashrah and Kufah which were once the centres of Islamic excellence but all were vanquished due to negligence," he said when launching 30 original titles published by the Malaysian Translation and Books Institute at Seri Perdana here yesterday.

Najib said the Government appreciated the roles played by writers in ensuring Malaysia achieved high-income and developed nation status.

"The development of a nation cannot be measured solely on its per capita income, economic growth and export figures.

"It should be measured based on the level of the community's creativity and innovativeness in producing quality writings.

"We will give ample freedom to writers to pen their ideas and at the same time assist young writers to polish their skills," he said.

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