

**Gapena needs to produce more Futuristic Works – Zahid  
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 17 (Bernama) -- The Federation of National Writers Associations of Malaysia (Gapena) needs to publish more books which can best portray the form of politics and culture in the country in future, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

He said it was important to give the right picture to today's generation what the the situation of the country would be like after 2020 or after 100 years of independence in 2057.

"Writings and literature such as poetry can enable people to see the future with the "eyes of the heart", how the condition of country will be after 2020 and 100 years of independence," he said at the "An Evening of Writers with the Deputy Prime Minister" event at Rumah Gapena here Sunday.

Zahid said apart from the works of Gapena, there should also be emphasis on the importance of non-verbal communication to overcome verbal communication.

According to him, the delivery of messages in the form of writing would not only enable the people to see the past but also whatever there is in the future as well.

Zahid said future works also needed to adapt to technological changes as the era had changed and would continue to change in future.

According to him, technology should not be an obstacle to expand the works of literature and writers should embrace technology change to keep up with the times.

At the event, Zahid announced a government allocation of RM5 million for Gapena to enable the federation to conduct writing and literature programmes apart from improving the infrastructure of Rumah Gapena, including the construction of a new fence.

Zahid also launched nine books published by members of Gapena.

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