

**Local Literary Works Must Be Translated To Go Global - DPM
Bernama
Nov 25, 2016**

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 25 (Bernama) -- Local literary works which have been accorded recognition should be translated into other languages and promoted internationally, said Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The Deputy Prime Minister said the translated works should not be literal or direct translations, but translated according to their artistic value.

"It does not have to be the Malaysia Institute of Translation and Books (ITBM) which translates it into the different languages. Find people who are experts in the nuances of the recipient language so that it can go global," he said in his speech at the 2015 Utusan Group Literary Award Presentation Ceremony here today.

Citing the example of foreign writers, he said their works were initially not known, but were later acknowledged as great works after they were translated into other languages.

Ahmad Zahid also said there should be collaborative efforts to promote local literary works overseas, including by the Utusan Group and other organisations.

Ahmad Zahid also expressed his appreciation of the Utusan Group and other corporations which continued to support literature through various programmes including the Utusan Group Literature Award (HSKU) which is being held for the 31st time.

He also urged that literary works such as poetry, short stories and novels be made compulsory texts for the literature subject or other relevant subjects, through the cooperation of the Education Ministry.

"Before this, there were already literary works which were made compulsory texts, but these are for the Utusan Group so that they themselves can be the publishers," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said today's society seemed to have discarded literary works and he hoped that local works would continue to be appreciated.

With increasing use of the social media, Ahmad Zahid said literary works should also be made available on the social media so that they could be enjoyed by people of all ages.

This year's HSKU award sees the prize for the Teen Novel category increased from RM7,000 to RM10,000 for the first prize, RM6,000 for the second prize (previously RM4,500) and RM4,000 for third prize (previously RM3,000).

The second prize winner was Sri Rahayu Mohd Yusop who wrote the novel "Empunya Kalbu" and the third prize was won by Nazri Hussein through his novel "Nyanyian Musim Rusuh". There was no first

prize for this category.

Other categories included literary feature, short story and poetry, with the winners getting cash and other prizes.

A new media category will be introduced next year in line with the growth of the social media now.

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