

KERATAN AKHBAR

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BERNAMA - 1.6 Million Reading Materials Supplied To 1,121 Rural... <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=>

1.6 Million Reading Materials Supplied To 1,121 Rural Libraries Since 2006

MELAKA, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian National Library (PNM) has supplied 1.6 million copies of locally published reading materials to 1,121 rural libraries nationwide since 2006.

Its director-general Nafisah Ahmad said the provision of reading materials in Bahasa Melayu (80 per cent) and 20 per cent in English involved an allocation of RM4 million to RM6.5 million a year.

She said the reading materials provided comprised various categories and fields of knowledge for all ages.

"A total RM6.5 million is allocated to provide reading materials at rural libraries nationwide to benefit the target groups in the rural communities this year alone," she told Bernama when met after opening the 'Language Crossing The Countryside' at the PNM Rural Library in Taman Seri Duyong here, Sunday.

She said, for starters, 5,000 copies of reading materials would be supplied to every newly set up rural library, and it would increased by between 400 and 500 copies from time to time.

She said PNB also supplied four million electronic reading materials in English, published abroad, in a data base which could be accessed on its website via the internet facilities provided in every rural library.

She said a review would be conducted on the purchase of reading materials using the budget allocated to ensure more books or magazines could be supplied to every rural library next year.

In another development, Nafisah said six new rural libraries would be set up, in Melaka (Two), Perak (two) and Pahang (two).

She said the move was important because rural libraries were important mediums in the effort to uphold the Malay language, turning out knowledgable citizens by 2020 and closing the information gap between the towns and rural areas.

On the programme, she said it was aimed at educating the multi-racial society in the country to uphold Bahasa Melayu as a medium of communication and solidarity among them.

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