

KERATAN AKHBAR

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The Star

'Books expand mindsets, worlds'

By MANJIT KAUR



Perak Book Bazaar was held over four days at Ipoh Convention Centre.

EVEN in the digital age, physical books still play an important role, says Datuk Seri Saarani Mohamad.

The Perak Menteri Besar said many schools and universities still used physical textbooks.

He said there was an active community of readers and book lovers who supported the publication and distribution of physical books through book clubs, reading events and independent bookstores.

“What is important is that we cultivate the love for books, not only as a source of knowledge but also as a means for us to learn about life, spirituality and values,” he said at the launch of Perak Book Bazaar at Ipoh Convention Centre.

Saarani said the National Library’s Malaysian Reading Profile Study of 2022/2023 showed that there had been a significant increase in the reading habits of Malaysians.



Saarani (right) launching Perak Book Bazaar.

He said from only two books per year in 2005, the number had increased to 15 in 2014.

“From 2022 to 2023, the figure rose to 24 books a year.

“Bear in mind that this number may not include digital books,” he said.

“This increase is very encouraging and shows that our efforts to foster a reading culture are bearing fruit.”

Saarani, however, said there was a need to continue to encourage reading as it was a source of knowledge and a means of honing critical thinking skills.

“Reading allows us to connect with various perspectives and cultures,” he said.

“It opens a window to the world, enriches our minds with new ideas and fosters a more open, innovative mindset.”

Thus, he said the organisation of book fairs such as Perak Book Bazaar, not only benefitted the community in the state but would also become a catalyst for residents to cultivate knowledge and explore new fields.

“The bazaar is also in line with the state government’s vision in the Perak Sejahtera 2030 flagship, particularly through human capital empowerment and lifelong learning,” Saarani said.

The four-day book fest included talks, workshops as well as storytelling and colouring sessions for children.

Sumber : <https://www.thestar.com.my/metro/metro-news/2024/08/20/books-expand-mindsets-worlds>