



21 APR, 2026

UMS, DBP sign MoU to improve reading materials for younger generation

Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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Exchange of the MoA document between UMS and DBP.

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen efforts to elevate language, literature and culture, especially among the younger generation, through the publication of children's picture books.

The agreement was formalised through the UMS' Minda Lestari Centre (PML) at a ceremony held at the DBP's Sabah Branch's Sudut Penulis (Writers' corner) on Monday.

This is seen as an important step in expanding efforts to publish quality reading materials capable of supporting early childhood literacy development.

UMS vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kassim Mansor said the initiative to publish children's picture books will support early childhood literacy development in a comprehensive manner.

"Picture books not only help to improve reading skills at an early stage, but also play a role in shaping children's imagination, creativity, as well as their emotional and social development.

"As a university committed to community development, UMS consistently supports efforts that have a direct impact on

early childhood education.

"The combination of DBP's expertise in publishing and UMS's strengths in research and early childhood education is believed to be capable of producing high-quality works rich in noble values and educational elements," he said.

Meanwhile, DBP Sabah Branch director, Jennitah Noordin said that collaboration between DBP and PML began in 2020 through the implementation of manuscript acquisition and refinement workshops.

"These workshops were conducted both online and in person to produce reading materials suitable as learning resources for children at preschool and kindergarten levels.

"This collaboration appears to have borne fruit, with a total of 17 manuscripts obtained and set to be published this year.

"The MoA on Children's Picture Book Publishing between DBP and UMS complements the collaboration that has been established over the past five years," she added.

Also present were UMS Registrar, Luqman Ridha Anwar, PML UMS director Dr Suwaibah Zakaria and DPB deputy director Julianah Kuli.



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SUMMARIES

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