

A BOOK CLUB PROPOSED FOR PJ FOLK

A BOOK club for Petaling Jaya residents will be a good idea before the long-awaited public library takes shape.

This proposal was put forward by PJ Assemblyman Soong Siew Hoong.

Speaking at the weekly meeting of the PJ Rotary Club at the Subang Golf Club yesterday, he said there was a crying need for a public library in the town.

"A book club run by interested members of the public can serve in the interim period before a library is set up," he said.

Shelves

He estimated that it would take at least two years before a library could be established due to delays of one kind or another.

"It is ironical that the most developed and affluent urban centre in Selangor lacks this facility," said Mr Soong.

The Selangor Library Corporation at present runs libraries at Jalan Raja in Kuala Lumpur (which is to be relocated at Shah Alam), Kajang, Kelang, and a few small towns.

Mr Soong suggested that the proposed club be

run along the lines of the Kuala Lumpur Book Club, which was later absorbed into the Selangor Library at Jalan Raja.

He added that the co-operation of the Petaling Jaya Municipality should be sought to get the project off the ground.

"The MPPJ can provide several thousand books and some book shelves, and even a place for the club," he said.

The MPPJ had collected a few thousand books when it planned to set up its own library some years ago.

The project failed to materialise when it was decided that the State-run library corporation was the proper organisation to maintain such facilities.

As the MPPJ lacked funds and personnel for the library, the books, donated by companies and individuals, were left at the MPPJ premises.

Said Mr Soong: "The book club can later on be handed over to the library corporation as a going concern and be integrated as part of its State-wide library service."

Challenge

Funds would have to be raised for maintenance and the running of the club, he said.

He said service clubs such as Rotary could play a major role in getting the club going.

"PJ residents should take this challenge as a first step towards the establishment of their very own library," he added.



Mr Soong... crying need for library