



**Rebrand to remain relevant:** (from left) Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka director-general Abdul Adziz Abas, Mahdzir and DBP board of governors member Prof Datuk Mohd Yusof Othman launching the 60th anniversary celebrations. — RAJA FAISAL HISHAN/The Star

# Everything should begin at home

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ALL learning should begin at home, including sex education, said Education Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

Maintaining that it is the parents who should take the lead in teaching their children about sex as well as what constitutes inappropriate behaviour, Mahdzir said parents have no excuse as there are lots of help available now.

"Parents can refer to books on how to discuss the topic with young children," he told reporters after launching Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka's (DBP) 60th anniversary celebrations last Tuesday.

He was commenting on the recent case of paedophile Richard Huckle who is convicted of 71 charges of sexual abuse against children in Malaysia and Cambodia. Mahdzir, who did not name any specific book, said these books teach sex education indi-

rectly and in a child-friendly manner. There are also elements of 'safety' in these books which are just as important, he added.

Mahdzir also said the ministry's checks found that Huckle was never registered as a teacher or educator here.

On the way forward for DBP, he suggested that it should rebrand itself to remain relevant to the millennials.

"In this digital age, with information flowing through digital channels, DBP needs to figure out how to ensure the sustainability of its academic and school publications.

"We cannot remain in the past. We need to come up with new marketing strategies and communication plans that are creative and innovative within DBP," he said after launching DBP's Strategic Plan 2016-2020, a document stating plans to uphold and strengthen the Malay language in the country.