

# Why radio show reverted to Chinese—Dr M

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THE Government allowed Chinese to be used fully on a request programme on the RTM Green Network because it did not want Bahasa Malaysia to end up a "bastardised language."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad explained to the 33rd Umno General Assembly why RTM had relaxed its policy of using Bahasa Malaysia on all networks on radio.

He said the steps were taken after careful thought to safeguard Bahasa Malaysia in line with its status as the nation's language.

The relaxed ruling had become a hot issue among the delegates at the assembly and they had asked the Government to retract it.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir, in an attempt to further explain the Government's stand, also played a recording of the request programme on the Green (Chinese language) Network.

He told the delegates to listen to what he meant by "bastardisation of the

language."

The programme began with a Bahasa Malaysia introduction but was then followed by the reading of the names of the requesters in Chinese and messages in Chinese.

What the announcer said was interspersed with conjunctions and statements — "This song is requested by" (Lagu ini diminta oleh) — that were in Bahasa Malaysia.

What ended up on the

air was a request programme for Chinese listeners, with Chinese messages and Chinese songs, all mixed up with bits and pieces of Bahasa Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said it was fine that Bahasa Malaysia borrowed some words from other languages for its own use but the version of the national language that came out on that request programme was something else.

"We don't want a national language that sounds like that, a bastardised version," he told the delegates.

"That is why we have allowed Chinese to be used once again in the main part of the programme. The introduction and closing parts of the programme, however, would remain in Bahasa Malaysia."

The delegates had listened attentively when the recording of the pro-

gramme was played, at the end of which to emphasise his point, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir asked anyone to translate all that was said.

He asked the assembly: "Do we want a national language that sounds like that (all mixed up)?"

His explanation of the whole issue was cheered by the delegates who had earlier booed Information Minister Adib Adam halfway through his reply.