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MALAYSIANS SHOULD LEARN MORE LANGUAGES- LAM THYE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views on the importance of the English language in this age of science and technology have the support of Land and General Company (LANG) Education Board Member Datuk Lee Lam Thye.

Dr Mahathir stressed the importance of mastering English when pledging loyalty to the Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Jaafar, on behalf of the government and people at Istana Negara on His Majesty's official birthday, yesterday.

Supporting Dr Mahathir's views, Lee in a statement today said that knowledge of only one language was not adequate to meet the challenges of progress and development and to strive towards becoming a fully developed nation by the year 2020.

He said knowledge of English should be emphasized as it was not only the international language of science and technology but also important in human resource development and commerce.

In addition, he said Malaysians should not only be bilingual in Bahasa Malaysia and English but try to be trilingual because knowledge in a third language would be a valuable asset to the individual.

For example, he said, Malaysians looking for business deals with China, a fast developing market in Asia, would find it vital to have mastery of Mandarin and other Chinese languages.

Lee, who is also a social activist said that the education policy should always encourage students to learn other languages so that they can acquire more knowledge and keep up with the latest developments in the field of science and technology.--BERNAMA

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