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NORMAL FOR ENGLISH WORDS TO BE USED IN MALAY, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today it was normal for the Malay language to adopt English words.

Similarly, many words from other languages have been accepted and are regarded as Malay words, he said in the Dewan Rakyat when replying to a question from Karpal Singh (DAP-Jelutong).

Dr Mahathir said words from languages such as Arabic, Persian, Portugese and Chinese had already been absorbed by Malay and had become part of the language.

He also clarified that Malay terms were still used for designations in the police force.

To a supplementary question from Karpal Singh as to when Umno would change its name which orginated from English words, Dr Mahathir said Barisan Nasional was awaiting for DAP to change its name first. This was greeted by laughter from other members.

Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (BN-Batang Lupar) then asked why Karpal Singh was so concerned about the usage of Malay to which Dr Mahathir replied: "It has become a practice of the opposition which always opposes." -- BERNAMA

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