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Kayveas-English

LEARNING ENGLISH WILL UPGRADE MALAYS, NOT DOWNGRADE MALAY LANGUAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 17 (Bernama) -- The usage of English in learning Science and Mathematics in schools will only upgrade the Malays in the country and will not in any way downgrade the national language, Peoples' Progressive Party (PPP) president Datuk M. Kayveas said today.

He said that if the Malays were able to master English, it would not only enable them to succeed in the international arena but would also boost the image of Malaysia.

He was responding to a statement by Terengganu Menteri Besar and PAS deputy president Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang yesterday that the usage of English in teaching Science and Maths would degrade the national language.

"It will definitely not degrade the Bahasa Melayu. In fact it will take the Malays to a higher plane where they would have the capability and capacity to meet the challenges of the future," Kayveas told Bernama.

At the same time, Kayveas said, the national language would continue serving its purpose and growing where all other subjects in schools would be taught in the Malay language while all government functions would still be conducted in that language.

He said that if the Malays become proficient in English it would indirectly upgrade all the other races in the country as Malays are the majority here.

Lashing out at PAS, Kayveas said the opposition party was fearful and scared that once more Malays, especially those from rural areas, master the English language they "would not live under the PAS imposed coconut shell anymore".

"PAS just wants to go on hoodwinking the rural people as much as it can but since the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) suggested that English be used, they have become scared that the very people who they have been cheating all this while will turn against them," he added.

He said that once the rural community became conversant in English, they would demand reading materials in English, which would be an eye-opener for them to the outside world.

-- BERNAMA

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