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Khalil-Elocution

SET UP ELOCUTION PANEL TO HONE ORATORY SKILLS

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 24 (Bernama) -- The Information Department has been asked to set up an elocution panel to hone the oratory skills of information officers to speak on various subjects related to the national policies.

Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said information officers must be able to speak eloquently not only in Bahasa Malaysia but also in English and other languages like Japanese, French and Arabic.

At the grassroot level, these officers must to be able to speak in the local dialects like Iban, Bidayuh and Kadazan, he said at the opening the final of the national elocution contest here yesterday.

His speech was delivered by the ministry's secretary-general, Datuk Seri Dr Arshad Hashim.

Khalil said information officers must be skilled in public speaking because it was part of their core busines to change the attitude of the target groups to ensure that the government of the day continued to be defended.

He said that in this day and age, many people used oratory skills to gain influence and as a lucrative profession.

He said Malaysia still did not have speakers who could command high fees or even half that of speakers in the west.

This was probably because the Malaysian society still did not know how to differentiate the good speakers from the not-so-good ones that sprang up like mushrooms after the rain during an election, he said.

However, he said, Malaysia could be proud of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had a natural flair for public speaking, especially in the international arena.

The speaker from Perlis, Khairul Zaidy Mansor, emerged champion in the contest and received RM3,000, the Setia Perdana Cup and a certificate of participation.

Mohamad Daud Mat Din of Kedah won the second prize of RM2,000 cash while third-placed Che Khairul Azli Che Ahmad of Selangor received RM1,000 cash. Both also received certificates of participation.

-- BERNAMA

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