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CONDUCT COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON MALAY LANGUAGE, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

ALOR STAR, April 28 (Bernama) -- A comprehensive study on the Malay language needs to be conducted following claims that the language has been adulterated, former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said that this was most vital as those making such claims had not conducted a study to determine whether this was indeed so.

"There need to be a comprehensive study and to stop the polemic because I found that those claiming that the Malay language has been adulterated have not conducted an in-depth study," he said at the foundation-laying ceremony at the site of the proposed RM8 million Kedah Malay Assembly Hall (DPMK) building here.

Present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain and DPMK president Tan Sri Khalid Abdullah.

Dr Mahathir said that the study should determine whether the Malay language had its own distinctive origin or an adaptation of other languages.

He said that the Malay language was now actually inadequate under the prevailing circumstances, giving rise to adaptation from the Arabic and English language.

"After Islam was embraced, the Malay language has been expanded to include Arabic and later English words," he said.

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