

LAWS OF MALAYSIA

REPRINT

Act 32

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACTS 1963/67

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2006

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACTS 1963/67

First enacted 1963 (Act No. 10 of 1963); and
1967 (Act No. 7 of 1967)

Consolidated and revised... .. 1971 (Act 32 w.e.f. 1 July 1971)

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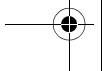
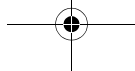
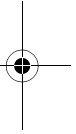
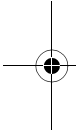
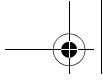
Act 32

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACTS 1963/67

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

Section

1. Short title, application and commencement
2. National language to be used for official purposes
3. Use of translation
4. Continued use of English may be permitted
5. Use of English language may be permitted in Parliament and Legislative Assembly
6. Authoritative text of laws
7. Written laws enacted prior to 1 September 1967
8. Language of Courts
9. Script of national language
10. Form of numerals
11. Forms



LAWS OF MALAYSIA

Act 32

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACTS 1963/67

An Act to consolidate the law relating to the use of the national language.

*[Peninsular Malaysia—sections 9 to 11—
11 April 1963, Act 10 of 1963;
Remainder—1 September 1967, Act 7 of 1967]*

Short title, application and commencement

1. (1) This Act may be cited as the National Language Acts 1963/1967 and shall, subject to subsection (2), apply throughout Malaysia.

(2) This Act shall come into force in the States of Sabah and Sarawak on such dates as the respective State Authorities may by enactments of the Legislatures of the respective States appoint and different dates may be appointed for the coming into force of different provisions of this Act in those States.

National language to be used for official purposes

2. Save as provided in this Act and subject to the safeguards contained in Article 152(1) of the Constitution relating to any other language and the language of any other community in Malaysia the national language shall be used for official purposes.

Use of translation

3. Nothing in this Act shall affect the right of the Federal Government or the Government of any State to use any translation of official documents or communications in any other language for such purposes as may be deemed necessary in the public interest.

Continued use of English may be permitted

4. The Yang di-Pertuan Agong may permit the continued use of the English language for such official purposes as may be deemed fit.

Use of English language may be permitted in Parliament and Legislative Assembly

5. The President of Dewan Negara, the Speaker of the Dewan Rakyat and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly of any State, or other person performing for the time being the functions of any such office, may permit any member of either House of Parliament or of the Legislative Assembly to use the English language in addressing, or otherwise participating in the work of the House or the Legislative Assembly, as the case may be.

Authoritative text of laws

6. The texts—

- (a) of all Bills to be introduced or amendments thereto to be moved in Parliament or the Legislative Assembly of any State;
- (b) of all Acts of Parliament and all subsidiary legislation issued by the Federal Government;
- (c) of all Enactments and subsidiary legislation issued by any State Government; and
- (d) of all Ordinances promulgated by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong,

shall be in the national language and in the English language, the former being authoritative unless the Yang di-Pertuan Agong otherwise prescribes generally or in respect of any particular law or class of laws.

Written laws enacted prior to 1 September 1967

7. (1) Where any written law enacted before the first day of September 1967, has been translated into the national language

National Language

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the Yang di-Pertuan Agong may prescribe the translation of that law to be authoritative.

(2) Nothing in section 6 shall apply to the amendment of any written law enacted before the first day of September 1967, until that written law has been translated into the national language and the translation has been prescribed to be authoritative.

Language of Courts

8. All proceedings (other than the giving of evidence by a witness) in the Federal Court, Court of Appeal, the High Court or any Subordinate Court shall be in the national language:

Provided that the Court may either of its own motion or on the application of any party to any proceedings and after considering the interests of justice in those proceedings, order that the proceedings (other than the giving of evidence by a witness) shall be partly in the national language and partly in the English language.

Script of national language

9. The script of the national language shall be the Rumi script: provided that this shall not prohibit the use of the Malay script, more commonly known as the Jawi script, of the national language.

Form of numerals

10. The form of numerals in the national language shall be the Arabic form of numerals.

Forms

11. Save as otherwise expressly provided, wherever a form in the English language is prescribed by any written law a translation thereof in the national language by such person or authority as the Prime Minister may from time to time by order prescribe may be used for all the purposes for which the form may, if in the English language, be used.

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NATIONAL LANGUAGE ACTS 1963/67

LIST OF AMENDMENTS

| Amending law | Short title | In force from |
|--------------|--|---------------|
| Act A554 | National Language (Amendment and Extension) Act 1983 | 13-05-1983 |
| Act A765 | National Language (Amendment) Act 1990 | 30-03-1990 |
| Act A885 | Constitution (Amendment) Act 1994 | 24-06-1994 |
| Act A901 | National Language (Amendment) Act 1994 | 09-09-1994 |

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| 5 | Act A554 | 13-05-1983 |
| 8 | Act A765 | 30-03-1990 |
| | Act A885 | 24-06-1994 |
| | Act A901 | 09-09-1994 |
