

**The 1Malaysia's 'point of view'**  
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Yuvan: I believe most of the TV/radio stations and companies in the media industry are 'forced' to act on directives received from their 'higher-ups', i.e. government authorities, in order that their business licences are not revoked.

So the 'point of view' is that our government leaders have once again proven that they want to be heaped with praises only and cannot accept any sort of criticism. This is totally absurd, childish and reflects on the immaturity of our government leaders.

Any government that does not have an 'open mind' to people's views and opinions and does not want to accept criticism, including constructive criticism, will never get popular support from the people and is doomed to fail in the course of time.

And my advice to talk-show hosts (TV and radio), especially those involved in current affairs, is to caution your guests to say only the good things and simply praise our government leaders. It does not matter if their opinions have no substance at all and it also does not matter if what is said is not the truth!

Peter Ooi: This is the mentality of a third-class leader. All they want is for others to sing songs of praise for him. When we call a spade a spade it is never appreciated. This is the very reason why our country cannot progress. The leadership is always in denial mode.

Even though we have lost badly in FDI to our neighbours, the leadership still insists that we are doing fine. In this case, what is so hurtful of giving a low rating to Najib? This is just the perception of the individual and he has every right to say so.

Would the authority come for me if I would rate Najib a failure in his 100 days as PM? Do they consider such a statement seditious?

Come on, these people have to grow up. Take criticism sportingly. Learn to correct or improve from those negative comments. To penalise the host of the programme showed how childish the administrators of ntv7. If they insist on behaving in such an immature way, the country has a long, long way to achieve developed status.

On Najib: All about packaging over performance

Rahman Izan: I cannot help but agree with M Bakri Musa on our prime minister's website 1Malaysia. I wonder if he follows it, let alone write it. It is too clean and too text like. It sounds like another propaganda piece by his PR people.

Emails sent to him do not get any acknowledgment or any reply. That is rather impersonal, I would say. That leaves me to wonder if he actually reads his emails or does his PR people just throws them into the trash.

If our prime minister really wants to connect with his people he must put more effort into it. Proof to the people that he takes an interest in them. Let's not make this 1Malaysia be just another PR exercise.

On Dr M turns up the heat with online poll

Maniam: If done by anyone else and especially when he was in power, Mahathir would have been the first person to pooh pooh the online survey results he has garnered on teaching in English. The audience in his blog is English conversant and anything less than a 95% support for English must be deemed opposition to the proposal!

I would urge those who oppose the government's decision to consider the realities. The real reason for the falling grades in science and maths was teachers' incompetence in English. Our Teacher Training Colleges (TTCs) have been churning out Bahasa-educated teachers for a generation now with inadequate English skills. The science and maths results reflect this.

It is therefore better to continue teaching all subjects in Bahasa using our current crop of Bahasa-trained teachers while improving English comprehension at all levels, including at TTCs, using specialist English teachers. In time, more subjects can be taught in English but not just now.

As for the parents who fret, there are, and have always been, enough private facilities available to better your child's English to have a competitive edge. It would also be good for the education minister to set a time-frame for going English for some subjects so that TTCs are geared for the purpose.

Dennis Madden: Is there nobody in this country who has the long-term interests of Malaysia and its people at heart? All I read is the selfish opinions of unimaginative commentators who have only their own vested interests on the issue or those of backward-looking groups who want to take Malaysia back to a dual-language system - the haves and the have nots.

If you want a united progressive Malaysia, there is only one option open to you, and that is:

Choose English as the main language of education and eventually for government, business and science. English will unify the country as no other indigenous language will, and it will allow Malaysia to move forward in line with the rest of the world.

Make Bahasa Malaysia a compulsory second language and promote it as the language of the arts and literature. If you are really honest with yourselves and have any ability to look into the future you will see that for BM, it is a long downhill slide into obsolescence. Giving BM a role in the arts will save it from becoming completely redundant.

Have Mandarin and Tamil as optional third languages at all major schools so that there is no segregation on the basis of language. Other languages would, for practical reasons, be only available at selected schools. It's not that hard to do.

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