

All radio stations must help shape nation-state, says Rais
Malaysianmirror.com
31 October 2010

KUCHING – The government wants all radio stations in the country to help mould the nation-state.

Information Communication and Culture Minister Dr Rais Yatim said on Sunday that radio has an influential medium even now in the Internet era, and it should used its power to educate and inform while entertaining listeners.

"I wish to urge all radio stations in the country not to forget to air programmes to educate the society and at the same time help to mould the nation-state, besides informing and entertaining their listeners," he said at the launch of Radio Kenyalang over Astro's 870 channel, here.

Dr Rais said the changes and development in the world of communication demanded variety in the dissemination of information over radio and television to the people.

He also said that the media was important for bridging the gap between people in the peninsula, Sabah and Sarawak in line with the 1Malaysia concept.

With regard to radio listeners and TV viewers in the Sarawak interior, Dr Rais said the ministry, with the collaboration of Astro, would provide set-top boxes to 2,000 eligible households.

The facility would enable these listeners and viewers to follow the Astro radio and TV channels 24 hours a day at minimum charge, he added.

"I have had discussions with the chief minister (Abdul Taib Mahmud) on the matter, and we feel this can be done in about two months after we get the list of recipients from the state government," he said in a Bernama report.

So far, only 163,000 households or 38 per cent of the Sarawak population subscribe to the Astro cable service while about 15,000 have yet to be able to enjoy the radio and television services of Radio Television Malaysia (RTM).

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