

Minority Ethnic Groups Never Been Sidelined Says DPM
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ALOR SETAR -- Minority ethnic groups in Malaysia have their own roles to play and will never be left out from mainstream development, said Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

He also gave assurance that the government would always take into consideration the interest of all races, irrespective of whether they were a majority or minority group, in all its decisions.

"The government's policy (in matters concerning the rights of an ethnic group) has been in practice for so long and has become Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak's principle not to sideline any group so that the vision to become a fully developed nation can be achieved.

"That is why transformation of the government and the economy is seriously implemented with focus given on six national key result areas (NKRAs)," he said when opening the Malaysian Siamese Association's Annual convention here yesterday.

He said the NKRAs were not introduced to benefit one or two ethnic group only, but was actually meant to create new economic sectors and job opportunities for all Malaysians.

Hence, he said, the government would also ensure that the children of the Siamese community in the country would receive the same treatment in all aspects of life, including education, health and economy.

During the event, Muhyiddin also announced the government's donation of RM500,000 to the association, signed the plaque for the association's new headquarters at Taman Pelangi, Mergong and presented awards to 56 excellent Siamese students.

Also present were Housing and Local Government Minister Chor Chee Heung, Deputy Agriculture and Agro-based Minister Wira Mohd Johari Baharom and Kedah Umno Liaison Committee chairman Paduka Ahmad Bashah Md Hanipah.

(Bernama)

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