

Muhyiddin: Gauge Use Of Bahasa Melayu By KPI
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KUALA LUMPUR -- The use of Bahasa Melayu at the executive level in the public and private sectors should be gauged by Key Performance Indicators (KPI), said Deputy Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said through this mechanism, a method should be devised to assess the level of achievement in the use of Bahasa Melayu or the Malay language in the public and private sectors over a predetermined period.

Muhyiddin said the assessment should focus on the use of the Malay language as a medium of communication to be given priority and appropriate status, for example in correspondence, meetings, speeches and discussions.

He said promotional and publicity leaflets should also give importance to the Malay language.

"All quarters, either in the public or private sectors need to be sincere in the culturalisation of Bahasa Melayu as the national and official language.

"Readjustment need to be done at all levels to enforce the proper use of the Malay language," he said when launching the language culturalisation programme organised by the Ministry of Information Communication and Culture at the Malaysian Tourism Centre here yesterday.

The programme was jointly launched by Muhyiddin, who is also Chairman of the Language Month Steering Committee and Minister of Information Communication and Culture Dr Rais Yatim.

Muhyiddin said the Malay language should serve as the language of communication transcending the way of life of the people whether in political, administrative, academic, economic or legal matters.

He said the sovereignty of the Malay language enshrined in the Federal Constitution would be guaranteed when the position of the Malay language is upheld without dispute.

Muhyiddin, who is also Minister of Education, said globalisation and the explosion of information technology had to some extent affect the use of the Malay language as the elements of uniqueness and greatness become fragile, friable and easily convoluted as it was mixed with other languages at whim and fancy.

He said, however, this was being rectified as the government bolstered the Malay language, especially in the education system.

The people become more confident as the government enforces the use of the Malay language in the entire education system while other languages especially English continued to be given emphasis as it is the international language, he said.

He said the National Language Policy was enshrined in the Federal Constitution through the

National Language Education Act and the Dewan Bahasa Pustaka Act and what needed to be done is stringent enforcement of the policy.

"Keep in mind, that the Malay language as the national language brings many benefits as it also serves as the language of unity in the context of the Malaysian plural society," he said.

(Bernama)

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