

MyKad, MyCard or KadSaya?

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KUALA LUMPUR: Common words known to Malaysians, like MyKad, may be changed as they are considered *bahasa rojak* and deemed inappropriate.

Culture, Arts and Heritage Minister Datuk Seri Rais Yatim said the ministry was concerned about the proliferation of terms where Bahasa Malaysia and English, were mixed or used together.

He said the ministry would like to see such a practice, commonly found in announcements or advertisements, be stopped.

Rais said mixed languages could also be found in sign-

boards, billboards and notice boards.

Speaking at a Press conference at his ministry yesterday, Rais said the Cabinet had consented to the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka playing the role of "language police".

The agency has been given the authority to correct misuse of language and compel those responsible to rectify the errors.

Rais said the ministry had joined hands with the Education and information ministries to promote proper language usage.

For a start, he said Putrajaya Holdings had agreed to change the terms "precinct" and "boulevard" used in the federal administrative centre

of Putrajaya.

He said boulevard would now be known as "Lebuhraya Perdana" while the term to replace precinct was being studied.

Rais said the Cabinet had also approved a joint memorandum by his ministry and the Education Ministry on ways to strengthen the national language.

One proposal is for the Education Act and the National Language Act to be amended to include fines of up to RM1,000 against those found to have abused the national language.

"The memorandum is aimed at strengthening and helping safeguard our national language," said Rais.

He said government departments and agencies would also be reminded to ensure that *bahasa rojak* was not used during meetings and functions.

"We hope to get those in the private sector to follow suit," said Rais.

Rais said it was incumbent on Malaysians not only to master the national language but use it in a proper manner.

On another matter, he said the Cabinet had agreed to allocate RM20 million annually to the ministry to monitor and conduct cultural-related programmes.

Of this, RM300,000 will be used to fund cultural performances or courses in selected public universities.