

Najib outlines ways to expand Bahasa usage

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KUALA LUMPUR: Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday outlined three key areas to strengthen the position and status of the Malay language.

First, he said, in its capacity as chair of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference and the Non-Aligned Movement, Malaysia should introduce the Malay language at institutions of higher learning in member countries of the two organisations.

"This covers the knowledge export package, the sending of teaching staff and consultants as well as co-operation in the

fields of research with the countries concerned," he said when closing the International Oratory Contest for the Deputy Prime Minister's Trophy here yesterday.

Najib said the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and publishers in this country should co-operate more actively in supplying reading and research materials on various aspects of Malay civilisation to selected institutions abroad on a continuous basis.

"Above all, Malaysia will never back down from the objective of making the Malay language a language of knowl-

edge in line with the achievements of the English language," he said.

Second, he said that in line with globalisation, the role of the Malay language as the language of science and information technology should be broadened, especially in its vocabulary.

In this way, Najib said the Malay language would be able to grow at a faster rate and, at the same time, integrated and organised efforts must be speeded up so that publications on the Malay language, literature and culture could be expanded digitally in line with

the demands of technology.

"Only then would the international community have a wider opportunity to obtain the latest sources of information on the various aspects of our language and civilisation," the deputy prime minister said.

Third, Najib said that besides forums, the presentation of academic working papers and conventions, more programmes on the usage and appreciation of the Malay language should be organised.

"For example, through oratory contests, practitioners can make their own impact

when the language is spoken and applied.

"Through international oratory contests, such as this one, the Malay language specifically and the Malay culture in general can be introduced and spread in a more practical manner to the international community," Najib said.

Meanwhile, the contest has attracted participants from more than 24 nations.

The countries that sent representatives were Korea, Japan, Egypt, China, India, Pakistan, France, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States. — Bernama

