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Just fine-tuning of BTN course

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■ By Annie Freeda Cruetz
anniefc@nst.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Civics Bureau (BTN) course modules are being fine-tuned and not revamped, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ahmad Maslan said yesterday.

He said the government wanted to make improvements to the course without changing its primary focus of instilling patriotism and love for the nation.

He said it also aimed to inculcate good values and the importance of multi-racial

unity among the people, besides educating them on government policies.

"What is wrong with improving the syllabus? Thousands of participants have benefited from BTN programmes since 1974.

"There may be two or three participants who are unhappy with the explanation about government policies. But they must understand that they should know the policies of the government."

He said the bureau usually went through "fine-tuning" when a new prime minister took over.

Citing an example, Ahmad said when Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad was the prime minister, the focus was on Vision 2020, while during Tun Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's time, it was human capital.

He said the focus now was on the 1Malaysia concept under Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"Participants will go through the 1Malaysia module which teaches about unity and eight core values — culture of excellence, perseverance, humility, acceptance, loyalty, meritocracy, education and integrity."

He said the core of the BTN remained unchanged. It is being fine-tuned to keep abreast of the times.

"I don't understand why some people are afraid of us fine-tuning the syllabus. Our aim is to instil patriotism, inculcate good values and foster unity as all Malaysians are an asset to the nation."

He said participants should be made aware of the aims of BTN and 1Malaysia so that they could impart what they gained to fellow Malaysians.

Ahmad felt that some quarters in Selangor were out to discredit the BTN course be-

cause the state government wanted to come up with another course.

On the practice of giving eggs to participants of the BTN course, Ahmad said: "It's true that we give eggs to participants. But do people know the significance of the act?"

"Participants must not break the eggs as it would signify the breaking of trust. The egg also signifies how fragile our community is.

"It's important that Malaysians live together in unity, peace and harmony, failing which there will be chaos and unrest."

He said the BTN course, among others, also taught participants the importance of team-building, team spirit, productivity and delivery.

"There is no truth to allegations that the course promotes racial sentiments."

He said the BTN curriculum, management, implementation and nationhood course received ISO 90001 certification in September.

The certification is awarded to recognise, among others, management responsibility, resource management, product realisation, measurement, analysis and improvements.