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'Significant changes made to BTN's course modules'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Complaints about the National Civics Bureau's (BTN) nation-building courses in the past could have arisen due to misinterpretation or misperception, Deputy Minister at the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Ahmad Maslan said yesterday.

He said they could have been due to "slips of the tongue" or "wrong delivery technique" on the part of the speakers. Alternatively, they could be due to "a misperception" or "misinterpretation" on the part of the audience.

Ahmad Maslan said however, the bureau had not received any more complaint since December last year.

He also told reporters after speaking at a 1Malaysia seminar here yesterday that there have been significant changes made to the course's modules, incorporating Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak's order to promote the 1 Malaysia vision.

He said BTN is organising 500 1Malaysia seminars nationwide this year on top of its existing nation building course which has been revamped to include the seminar as part of its module. Such seminars are organised in line with BTN's role to instil patriotism and inculcate positive values among Malaysians, focusing on providing a clear understanding on the 'People

First, Performance Now' motto that the 1Malaysia vision is built upon.

"To date, we have organised 34 seminars attended by 7,875 participants from various agencies, including 1,800 participants from various communities in Sarawak," said Ahmad, who was a speaker the 35th instalment of the seminar held at Inland Revenue Board (IRB) head office yesterday for 120 of its top management staff nationwide.

"BTN has taken on the extra responsibility to organise these seminars to attract as many 'prime-movers' in their respective agencies who can then spread the 1Malaysia message to their subordinates," said Ahmad, adding that the 120 leaders have the power to reach over 10,000 subordinates.

He said the 1Malaysia vision mooted by Najib last year can be broken down into two distinct aspects - unity and eight values which are largely based on Najib's aspirations contained in his earlier speeches.

Ahmad also detailed how the eight values comprising precision, knowledge intensive, innovation, integrity, resilience, loyalty and wisdom can be applied to enhance IRB operations.

"It is important for any agency to develop 'front-end' innovation leaders who are able to, based on the values, lead their troops when faced with a challenge, for instance dealing with tax-evaders," said Ahmad.