

UNCERTAINTIES

Rafidah: Stop talk on PM transition

PUTRAJAYA: Everyone should focus on developing the economy instead of talking about the transition of the prime minister's post, said National Economic Action Council member Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz.

She said rumours on the matter had been identified as one of the problems that caused uncertainties among the people.

"We should not be preoccupied with the issue of the transition of power. Let us stop talking about it because people, including investors and potential business partners, are unable to see where we are heading.

"What happens in the future is in God's hands. So don't talk about what's going to happen in two or three years. Just carry on because policies will go on beyond two or three years.

"We have a country to govern, so get on with governing and stop talking about transition," she said in her keynote address yes-

terday at the Perdana Discourse Series themed "Factors impeding Malaysia's economic progress and how to overcome them".

Talk on the transition of power from Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had dominated the political landscape.

Dr Mahathir reiterated that he would keep his promise to step down as premier before completing a full term in office.

Rafidah called on the people to be patient for the government to deliver on its promises.

"I'm also impatient like the people. I just want to know what is going to happen next, but emotions must be governed by reality. This government has five years to run, so we should not expect a report card for good delivery after just one year."

She urged policymakers to start analysing the impact of volatile external environments on the economy.

"Whether it is positive or negative effects, indirectly or directly, we have to look at them now because these will affect policies and strategies.

"Once we are able to pre-empt the possible outcomes, we can start collaborating with stakeholders," she said.

Rafidah questioned the government's proposal to develop a flying car.

"As a hobby, flying is okay, but don't make it a national project. We don't even give out bicycles to students in Sabah who have to walk miles to school every day.

"If it was feasible, do you think Malaysia would be the first to do it? We even need a licence to fly a drone in Malaysia."

After the discourse, Rafidah launched a book written by Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Murad Merican titled *Revisiting Atas Angin: A Review on Malay Imagination of Rum, Ferringghi and Penjajah*.



Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz launching a book by Professor Datuk Dr Ahmad Murad Merican (right) after delivering her keynote address at the Perdana Discourse Series in Putrajaya yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

On the introduction of khat in schools, Rafidah said it should have been made an elective subject rather than a compulsory one.

"Making it compulsory will burden students. It's just nonsense. Students have other things to learn. Khat is obviously not (something that should be compulsory)."

She said students had their plate full with Mathematics, Sci-

ence and English.

"If you force everyone to do khat, I will be the first to fail. I don't have the flair for such art. And I dare say you will fail, too.

"Art, like anything else, is a talent. We don't need that kind of talent to be included as a compulsory subject.

"I'd just texted (Education Minister) Dr Maszlee (Malik) to suggest it would better not to do it as a compulsory subject."