

Govt to set up new council to empower bumiputras

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➤ Headed by PM, agency would focus on 'entrepreneurial culture' to create more businessmen

KUALA LUMPUR: Bumiputras will have yet another entity - called the Bumiputra Prosperity Council - to address their socio-economic issues such as unemployment.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the council will be set up soon as part of the national agenda.

Responding to a question from Datuk Seri Mujahid Yusof Rawa (PH-Parit Buntar), Muhyiddin said he will chair the council, whose main function will be to focus on

"expediting efforts to empower bumiputras".

He said the Bumiputra Agenda Steering Unit will continue to function as the coordinating agency to create a database of bumiputras in ministries, agencies and government-linked companies.

Muhyiddin said while many successes have been achieved through efforts to raise the standard of living of bumiputras, their socio-economic status still needs to be improved.

"In view of the worsening economy and rising unemployment among bumiputras, the government has decided to set up the Bumiputra Prosperity Council to address their problems."

Mujahid had wanted to know how the government would help bumiputras economically without jeopardising the position of the other races.

Muhyiddin said multiple efforts will be

made through the creation of an "entrepreneurial culture" at various levels to make entrepreneurs of bumiputras.

This culture will be inculcated in bumiputras on a continuous basis through the integrated efforts of Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional, Majlis Amanah Rakyat, Tekun Nasional and other agencies.

"The government is committed to making the bumiputra agenda a success through the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 and the 12th Malaysia Plan to be tabled next year.

"Education and human capital will be given greater focus, especially among B40 and M40 bumiputra families."

The bumiputra poverty rate was 7.2% in 2019 compared with 1.4% for Chinese and 4.8% for the Indian community. He said he was confident that he could uplift bumiputras without affecting the rights of other races so that prosperity could be enjoyed by everyone.