

# Non-bumis not being sidelined, says PM

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government's emphasis on improving bumiputra socio-economic status does not mean that it is sidelining non-bumiputras, said Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Citing the Shared Prosperity Vision policy, the premier said it took into consideration the interests of all races.

He said the racial and ethnic composition, along with various other factors, were considered before implementation of the nation's poverty eradication programme, aimed at creating fair and equal opportunities for all, ensuring the country's wealth is evenly distributed and enjoyed by the people.

"The Perikatan Nasional government's policy is to implement a comprehensive poverty eradication programme, taking into account the disparities between bumiputras and non-bumiputras, regional and non-regional areas, including in Sabah and Sarawak.

"Bumiputras make up the majority, with almost 70% of the country's total population ... the reason the government focuses on them when developing the economy as a whole."

He added the government is always concerned about the problems faced by non-bumiputras and will not neglect them, especially regarding poverty.

"We cannot neglect them or let them live in poverty because they are



Muhyiddin answering questions on the effectiveness of the Bumiputra Prosperity Council in efforts to strengthen bumiputra socio-economic status in the Dewan Negara yesterday.

non-bumiputras. We cannot just help Malays to become richer. No, we cannot. We must have a fair policy for all races in the country," he said in reply to Senator Datuk Razali Idris, who asked about the government's initiatives in addressing poverty issues in Kelantan, Terengganu, Sabah and Sarawak.

He said the government established the Bumiputra Agenda Steering Unit (Teraju) under the Prime Minister's Department to coordinate and steer the bumiputra

agenda in a bid to increase their share of the economy.

Focus will also be given to their participation in certain sectors, such as industrial, banking, manufacturing and electronics, where the government can identify their weaknesses and introduce initiatives to ensure that they will not lag behind other races, he said.

To Razali's question on the effectiveness of the Bumiputra Prosperity Council (MKB), he cited the bumiputra poverty rate of 7.2% in

2019 and the unemployment rate for the second quarter of this year of 5.2% compared with the national average of 5.1%.

He said Bumiputra equity ownership in the corporate sector was only 16.2% in 2015 compared with non-bumiputra at 30.7% and foreign ownership at 45.3%.

As such, he said MKB is the highest platform to renew and strengthen all bumiputra socio-economic development plans. - Bernama

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