

Govt forms Rukun Negara education panel

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▶ Committee will look into proposals to make national philosophy principles part of kindergarten and school curriculum, says minister

PUTRAJAYA: The National Unity Ministry has set up a Rukun Negara education committee.

Its minister Datuk Halimah Mohamed Sadique said the committee will be chaired by the ministry's secretary-general. Its members will be the secretaries-general of the ministries of Communications and Multimedia, Higher Education, and Education Ministry.

The committee was primarily established to look into proposals to assimilate Rukun Negara education in the school curriculum from kindergarten to secondary school level to foster appreciation for the principles of the national philosophy and strengthen unity in the country, she said.

"We used to have Civics Education. We learned everything about our King, our flag and things that we need to know as citizens.

"On that basis, we want to re-introduce Rukun Negara studies with some amendments to the national education policy."

Halimah said that while the process is being finalised, Rukun Negara clubs in 6,621 primary and secondary schools and the 172 Rukun Negara secretariats in the public and private institutions of higher learning will be strengthened through various programmes that promote its understanding and importance.

She added the government is preparing the National Unity Action Plan 2021-2025 by

gathering views and aspirations of the people through roadshows, expected to be completed this month.

A National Unity Advisory Council has been set up to strengthen unity and national integration. It will advise the government on matters pertaining to unity and national integration as well as propose solutions to address solidarity issues.

The Rukun Negara was declared on Aug 31, 1970, by the fourth Yang di-Pertuan Agong, the late Tuanku Ismail Nasiruddin Shah ibni Almarhum Sultan Zainal Abidin. The five principles of the Rukun Negara are Belief in God; Loyalty to King and Country; Upholding the Constitution; Rule of Law; and Good Behaviour and Morality.

A special two-episode documentary entitled *Rukun Negara: A Nation United* to mark the 50th anniversary of the principles was recorded by Bernama for broadcast between Aug 31 and Sept 19 on BernamaTV on Channel 502 Astro, Njoi 502, UnifiTV 631 and MyFreeView 121. - Bernama