

DPM: Rep's flag remarks show PR disrespect for heritage
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 18 — An opposition lawmaker's recent remarks that the design of the Malaysian flag should be altered shows that Pakatan Rakyat (PR) has no respect for history, the deputy prime minister said today.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said comments by DAP's Kota Alam Shah assemblyman M. Manoharan revealed the intention of the opposition to get rid of everything that has been accepted as Malaysia's heritage, in an effort to deny Barisan Nasional's (BN) contributions to nation-building.

"That's the flag. Maybe there's more they want to do, to change everything just because they say they have power now," he told reporters after opening the Makkal Sakti Convention at Putra World Trade Centre here.

Muhyiddin cautioned that PR might go as far as to amend the Constitution — citing the opposition's dispute of several articles contained within it — and warned that such changes would have an adverse impact on the country's socio-economic and cultural structures.

Manoharan said on his Facebook page last week that the Jalur Gemilang should be modified as it reminded him of the Barisan Nasional (BN) flag and that it too closely resembled the "Stars and Stripes" of the US flag.

The assemblyman, who distributed DAP flags to his constituents on Malaysia Day because he "did not have the heart" to wave the Malaysian flag, had added that he might propose changes to the flag should PR come to power.

"The jalur (stripes) need to be changed. The red and white is causing a lot of confusion. I think the star, crescent and royal yellow should be maintained," he had said, adding that there was nothing wrong with changing the flag's design.

Manoharan later removed the post from his Facebook page and apologised for his comments.

"I am a Malaysian. Very patriotic. I apologise if my comment on the Malaysian flag has caused any inconvenience to you all. Thank you," he said.

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