

Rais Ticks Off Penang Government For Sidelining National Language
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JELEBU, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim Monday expressed disappointment that Bahasa Malaysia was not being given its due respect in Penang after the opposition took over the state two years ago.

He said this was abundantly clear, as at an official function he attended in the state, the organisers were only talking in Mandarin and English.

"Only I was talking in the national language and a little bit in English. This shows they do not appreciate the language which is not good for national unity," he told Bernama after attending a community function at the Orang Asli settlement of Kampung Putra in Simpang Durian here.

He urged the Malays in Penang to question this turn of events in the state as they still commanded much influence there.

Rais said he viewed the Penang government and in particular Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng as arrogant and dishonest.

"They are trumpeting their chests that Penang is progressing by leaps and bounds under the DAP when in fact the state was developed since it was ruled by Gerakan under (former chief minister) Dr Koh Tsu Koon. Penang was not developed within a space of two years (under the opposition)," he said.

He said as two years was too short a time to bring about tangible development, Umno, MCA, MIC and Gerakan should use this fact to expose the arrogance of Guan Eng.

He also viewed the DAP's using its economic strength in Penang to "showboat" as rather unethical and more so if the "cake" was not shared equitably among the various races.

Should this (unfair distribution of the economic pie) happen, the existing harmony forged by Gerakan in Penang would erode slowly if the state were to be in the hands of the DAP for a long time. he added.

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