

**Malaysians Urged To Protect Status Of Bahasa Malaysia
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MELAKA, Oct 13 (Bernama) -- Information, Communications and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim has urged Malaysia's leaders and the people to fully support efforts to uphold Bahasa Malaysia as the national language by using it in a proper manner.

He said the language's future was bright as it had the capacity to be used in the communication, knowledge and commercial mediums.

"The public shouldn't feel any less dignified to speak in the national language," he told reporters after the launching of the national-level National Language Month 2011 by Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka (UTeM) here, today.

Rais emphasised that it was very easy for the language to be left behind in the current globalisation scenario and that there were still some among the nation's private sector who did not do enough to promote it.

"This Oct 20 we will have a special programme to honour the author of a Mandarin-Melayu dictionary. We will do this as a mark of respect to the Malaysian community in general and the Chinese community in particular, that Bahasa Malaysia as the national language has a bright future," he said.

Asked about the level of its use in television and radio, Rais said all stations in the country followed set guidelines.

"Television and radio stations have clear guidelines and as a whole they exceed the 60 per cent Bahasa Melayu content requirement," he said.

However, commercials are still rather lax on the matter and this needs to be addressed, he added.

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