

Use Of National Language In Sarawak, Sabah Courts Not Prohibited By Federal Constitution
Bernama
April 20, 2012

KUCHING, April 20 (Bernama) -- The Court of Appeal today ruled that the Federal Constitution does not prohibit the use of the national language in court documents in Sarawak and Sabah despite English still being the official language in all court proceedings in both states.

Justice Datuk Wira Low Hop Bing, who chaired a three-member panel, said the ruling was made through a majority decision that the public prosecutor's appeal to serve respondent Poleon Ajan with a notice of appeal in Bahasa Malaysia should not be dismissed.

Hence the preliminary objection raised by Poleon's counsel Bernard Philip Lanat that the use of the English language was mandatory, as stipulated under Rule 102 of the Rules of the Court of Appeal, was not sustainable, he said.

The public prosecutor was ordered to serve the notice within 60 days to Poleon pending the appeal proper which was fixed for hearing on August 29 this year.

The other panel members were Justice Datuk Mohd Hishamuddin Mohd Yunus and Justice Datuk Abdul Wahab Patail.

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