

**Muhyiddin Calls For Incentives For Writers Of Malay Scholarly Works**  
**Bernama**  
**8 Oct, 2013**

KANGAR, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on Tuesday launched the national-level National Language Month and called for recognition and incentives for writers actively producing scholarly works in Bahasa Melayu.

The deputy prime minister said scholarly works in Bahasa Melayu in critical fields such as law, engineering and medicine should be appreciated.

"It is hoped that this approach will drive lecturers in public and private institutions of higher learning to produce such works," he said at the launch here.

Muhyiddin, who is also the education minister, said the government had proposed that one of the conditions for promotion of lecturers was the writing of scholarly books or magazines in Bahasa Melayu.

"This is an area of high-impact outcome that should be promoted in implementing the action plan to elevate Bahasa Melayu as a language of knowledge in institutions of higher learning," he said.

The action plan, launched in 2011, was aimed at, among other things, strengthening Bahasa Melayu in the teaching and learning process as well as in research and publication, he said.

Three years after the launch of the action plan, the result of its implementation had yet to be seen, he said.

"I find that many courses in institutions of higher learning are still conducted in the English Language," said Muhyiddin, who is also chairman of the 2013 National Language Month Main Committee.

Muhyiddin said he realised that critical courses such as engineering, law and medicine had to be conducted in English, but efforts should be made to gradually switch from English to Bahasa Melayu.

"In the pursuit of knowledge, we are not narrow-minded to reject English, which is an international language, but efforts should be made to accord Bahasa Melayu its rightful place," he said.

Muhyiddin said China, Japan and South Korea, for example, accorded priority to their mother tongues in the acquisition of knowledge but also mastered the major languages of the world.

He said the question of empowering the national language was to be borne not only by the academics but by all the people.

"In a cosmopolitan country like Malaysia, understanding, tolerance and openness should buttress any language and educational programme," he said.

Muhyiddin said he was happy that people of all communities responded well to the national language month event.

"This is the kind of strength we enjoy in our society that should be safeguarded forever to ensure national harmony," he said.

In conjunction with the launch, organised by the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) and the Perlis government, Muhyiddin flagged off participants of a 'Kembara Bahasa 2013' convoy on a tour of the country.

Perlis Menteri Besar Azlan Man, Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and DBP director-general Datuk Dr Awang Sariyan were also present at the event.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2013 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v7/newsindex.php?id=983963>