

**Malay Royal Institution Face Big Challenge To Remain Relevant - Raja Nazrin
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KUALA KANGSAR, March 7 (Bernama) -- The Malay royal institution is facing a big challenge to remain relevant, accepted and respected by the people, said the Regent of Perak, Raja Dr Nazrin Shah.

He said recent challenges to certain provisions of the law went against the customs, decorum and degraded the royal institution.

"On February 21, 2014, the High Court found that the prosecution had proven its case beyond reasonable doubt against the honourable Karpal Singh (DAP chairman) who was found guilty of uttering seditious words against His Highness the Sultan of Perak on February 6 2009," he said at the 156th meeting of the Perak Dewan Negara at Istana Iskandariah, here today.

Raja Nazrin said to ensure the Malay royal institution remain relevant, efforts should be made to strengthen ties between the rulers and the people.

This was to improve appreciation of the royal institution while programmes involving the present Sultans should be made to give more meaning and impact.

"These programmes should not just be about ceremonies organised and attended by the same audience. They are not productive and fail to meet the intended philosophy and objectives."

He said such programmes were a waste of resources, energy, time and money because they did not bring any added value or returns.

"Programmes involving the Sultan, starting with the birthday celebration of the Sultan of Perak this year, should be wisely done.

"They must be injected with new dimension and refreshed with more dynamic content to strengthen ties between the Sultan and his subjects and strike a balance between protocol and his friendly image.

"It requires rearranging the composition of invited guests and seating so that the Sultan does not sit too far from the audience and flanked by the same people."

Programmes organised at district level should provide opportunities for the Sultans to get to know the people.

Raja Nazrin said heads of departments who usually attend state functions should be rotated to give the opportunity to officers at district level.

"The private sector, NGOs, religious bodies, charitable associations, youth, sports, students, uniformed services, principals, headmasters, teachers and penghulu should be included on the invitation list so that more people have the opportunity to interact with the Sultan."

In line with the government's austerity measures, the cost should be controlled so that the people would not have a wrong impression of the royal institution.

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