

Malaysia, Indonesia Aim To Further Raise Status Of Bahasa Melayu-Bahasa Indonesia Bernama

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By Azeman Ariffin

JAKARTA, April 8 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has agreed to set up a committee to look into collaborative efforts with Indonesia to further boost usage of Bahasa Melayu-Bahasa Indonesia at the international level.

Deputy Prime Minister, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the committee will be chaired by Socio-Cultural Advisor to Government, Tan Sri Dr Rais Yatim and it will look into the technical aspects together with a committee from the Indonesian side.

He said now there were more than 300 million speakers of Bahasa Melayu-Bahasa Indonesia throughout the world with most of them in Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei and Singapore, making Bahasa Melayu-Bahasa Indonesia the fourth most important lingua franca internationally.

Muhyiddin, who arrived here yesterday for a three-day working visit to Jakarta, told this to reporters after a meeting with his Indonesian counterpart Jusuf Kalla here today.

Muhyiddin said besides agreeing on this, he and Jusuf also agreed that investments be increased between both countries.

"Many Malaysian companies are interested in investing in Indonesia particularly in power generation, ports, airports, infrastructure, highway construction and others," he said.

He said Indonesia agreed to identify projects that Malaysian companies could participate in, specifically in terms of expertise and capital injection.

"We hope what has been agreed can take off quickly, right from the planning stage to implementation," he said, adding that the projects would be initiated by the private sector with the assistance of the government.

Earlier, Muhyiddin had held discussions with Indonesia's Education and Culture Minister Anies Rasyid Baswedan and Minister of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Muhammad Nasir.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said that during the meeting they had agreed that a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on education between the two countries be expedited.

He said the two countries would also enhance their cooperation in education sector, especially in exchange of lecturers and students and also research commercialisation.

He said that among other matters raised in the meeting were universities' qualifications

recognition and students credit transfer options.

"We also agreed to allow more education centres for Indonesian children in Malaysia to be opened like what have been established in Sabah," he said.

He said, currently there were more than 50 such centres opened in Sabah and it would also be expanded to Sarawak.

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