

Muhyiddin Spends Almost Two Hours At Dialogue With Indonesian Media

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By Azeman Ariffin

JAKARTA, April 9 (Bernama) -- Deputy prime minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin Thursday spent almost two hours meeting and having a dialogue with chief editors of the Indonesian media here.

Among the issues raised at the meeting were balanced news coverage on issues pertaining to the maritime border and legal action on fishing vessels encroaching into Indonesian waters.

Muhyiddin said on behalf of the Malaysian government, the authorities gave more emphasis on measures to drive off ships which encroached into Malaysian waters rather than taking legal action including blowing up the fishing vessels involved.

In addition, he also asked the Indonesian media to make coverage on leading companies capable of helping Indonesia in terms of technology, capital and expertise in management.

"Malaysia has many companies carrying out business outside the country and the Indonesian media should give confidence to its nationals, to give an opportunity and we will prove (our capability)," he said when replying to a question on the capability of Malaysian companies to participate in mega projects in that country.

The meeting was organised by Ikatan Setiakawan Wartawan Malaysia-Indonesia (Iswami) members from both countries.

The deputy prime minister also said that petty issues such as the claims on the origins of food and culture should not be reported negatively because the origins of the Malay culture certainly came from this country.

"We should look at bigger issues to share together such as facing the threats of new imperialism and how Malaysia and Indonesia can share experience and expertise to face new challenges on the economy and politics at the international level," he said.

He also asked Iswami to join the struggle to boost usage of the Malay and Indonesian languages as international languages.

Twenty-eight chief editors from Indonesia and Malaysia participated in the dialogue and among those present were Bernama general manager who is also Iswami Malaysia chairman Datul Zulkefli Salleh and Bernama editor-in-chief Datuk Zakaria Abdul Wahab and Iswami Indonesia head Saiful Hadi.

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