

Use more Jawi, PM tells state govts, local councils

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PETALING JAYA: Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin has urged state governments, local councils, government-linked companies and government agencies to increase the usage of Jawi.

Muhyiddin said it was time to revive interest in Jawi considering the role it played in Malaysia's history, adding that the writing possessed aesthetic and artistic attraction.

"Jawi is a part of our nation's identity that must not only be defended but reinforced as a catalyst for unity through art and heritage," he said at the launch of a Jawi exhibition hosted by Dewan Negara president Rais Yatim.

"I urge corporations, especially GLCs, government agencies, local councils and state governments, to increase the usage of Jawi in billboard segments, festivals and others."

He added that he hoped ministries and non-governmental organisations would help promote the cultural and historical aspects of Jawi.

Noting that the education ministry had made Jawi an optional elective for students, Muhyiddin said he believed that every ethnic group should not forget their heritage.

“In the context of a plural society, it is appropriate and fair for the government to encourage those with various interests and who desire to involve themselves in its artistic, cultural and heritage aspects,” he said.

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