

'BM, NATIONAL HISTORY MUST BE EDUCATION SYSTEM CORE'

It is better not to live in Malaysia if you cannot accept Bahasa Melayu, says king

LUQMAN HAKIM
AND HAKIM MAHARI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

SULTAN Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, drew a line that must not be crossed in the country's education system, saying the National Education Policy must be the basis, with Bahasa Melayu and national history at its core.

"If we want to introduce a new education system, it must be done in line with the National Education Policy, and Bahasa Melayu must remain the main language because it is the national language and the language of unity.

"Any proposal to recognise any new or other education system must accept Bahasa Melayu and the history of Malaysia.

"If there are those who do not accept Bahasa Melayu, it is better that they do not live in Malaysia," he said in his Royal Address at the opening of the fifth session of the 15th Parliament.

The king said acceptance of the national language and history was fundamental to social cohesion, stressing that no parallel system should undermine these shared foundations.

The king said the national education system must continue to

be strengthened as the foundation of nation-building, national identity and Malaysia's future.

The king did not name any specific proposal, but his remarks come amid renewed debate over calls to recognise the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC).

Last month, DAP secretary-general Anthony Loke had said on a podcast that a new language policy would resolve recognition of the UEC — a school-leaving examination taken by students at Chinese independent schools.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim had said there would be no compromise on the mastery and status of Bahasa Melayu, reaffirming the government's commitment to the Federal Constitution and the national language.

NEW LAWS NEEDED FOR MODERN SECURITY THREATS

There is an urgent need for special laws to combat crimes related to national security and external threats, said Sultan Ibrahim.

The ruler warned that modern risks and evolving crime trends could undermine social stability.

He said firm action must be taken against serious crimes, terrorism and acts touching on sensitive issues such as 3R (race, religion and royalty).



His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia, taking his seat at the opening of the fifth session of the 15th Parliament yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

Sultan Ibrahim said effective enforcement was needed to preserve public order.

"The threats of serious crime and terrorism, as well as actions involving the 3R, must also be addressed effectively.

"Only in this way can harmony among all races and the sovereignty of the country be preserved."

He said Malaysia was also facing modern threats that go beyond conventional crime, particularly in the digital sphere involving cybersecurity, information integrity and growing use of deepfake technology.

He cautioned that deepfakes could open the door to fraud and misinformation, while also posing risks to social cohesion.

RESPECT STATES BUT COUNTRY COMES FIRST

Sultan Ibrahim also told lawmakers to avoid actions or statements that could inflame tensions between the nation's states.

The ruler said the Malaysia Agreement 1963 (MA63) united Malaya, Sabah and Sarawak into a single nation founded on unity, mutual respect and close coop-

eration between the states and the federal government.

He said while the rights of the states must be respected, the collective interests of Malaysia was the priority.

"The foundation of Malaysia was intended to foster harmony, mutual respect, and strong collaboration between the states and the federal government.

"The honourable members of the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara must exercise greater caution to ensure that no actions or statements provoke tensions between the regions.

"All differences of opinion should be addressed in a mature and constructive manner, not through hatred, suspicion, or divisive rhetoric," he said.

The king also reminded MPs that their debates and votes in the lower house carried weight beyond party politics, as they shaped the nation's future.

"I also remind all honourable members that every debate, decision and vote cast in this chamber is not merely a reflection of party political stance but will determine our nation's future.

"Therefore, carry out your duties with integrity, wisdom and

responsibility for the benefit of all citizens," he said.

The king also called on all Malaysians to continue striving for peace and prosperity, emphasising the importance of unity, harmony and shared responsibility for the nation's future.

"Let us pray that Malaysia continues to thrive and prosper, remains peaceful, and that all its people enjoy fulfilling, happy, and harmonious lives."

ECONOMIC PROGRESS, ASEAN LEADERSHIP HAILED

The king congratulated the government on the successful chairmanship of Asean last year, as well as on Malaysia's positive economic performance.

He said Malaysia recorded economic growth of 4.7 per cent in the first nine months of last year while unemployment and inflation remained low.

Hardcore poverty also stood at 0.09 per cent.

"I congratulate the government that, despite the various challenges facing the world, Malaysia still recorded positive economic growth during the period from January to September," he was quoted as saying by Bernama.