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Tajuk : Sarawak recognizes English as second official language

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Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem, Chief Minister



Sarawak recognises English as second official language

Chief Minister Datuk Patinggi Tan Sri Adenan Satem continues to make waves across Sarawak when he announces that correspondence and communications between public and government agencies in the state can now be conducted in English, apart from Bahasa Malaysia.

Adenan believed that introducing this policy would improve English proficiency among civil servants while promoting the learning and command of the language among students and university graduates.

He added that the use of English was also welcome for correspondences between government agencies.

Citing a newspaper report which mentioned that more than 1,000 doctors in Malaysia who had completed their studies gave up their medical careers because of poor command of English, Adenan found the situation as saddening.

Equally sad, he added, was the unemployment of thousands of graduates in Malaysia who could not find proper jobs due to their inability to speak and write decent English.

"So I am just being realistic here. We don't want our graduates to be unemployable. Our civil service also needs to converse in English."

In September, the state government also made the decision to recognise the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) as a qualification for entrance into the state's civil service as well as the state's public university Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas).

This was revealed by Senator Datuk Dr Sim Kui Hian who disclosed that Adenan had given the green light to recognise UEC, the Chinese standardised examination of the country's Chinese secondary schools which is equivalent to Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia (STPM).

Unimas however stated that it could not accept UEC holders in the meantime as it was bound by regulations of the Ministry of Higher Education in November.

As it was a public university under MOHE, it was obliged to follow directives from the ministry regarding the national education policy towards UEC and also the current admission requirements to public universities set by the ministry.

Disediakan oleh: Olivia Ajan
Bahagian Perancangan Dan Komunikasi Korporat