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PEKAN REVIEW
e-newsletter

Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

Nation Building in Malaysia

Nationalism is a key foundation in developing nation-building.

By taking into account of one factor that has always been used to categorise a country and its people, whi
identity of the nation but also a force that can unite the people.

Language also denotes the peoples' identification to the country, their acceptance of the country's interests

According to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM)'s Institute of Ethnic Study (KITA) and Institute of Mala
Professor Dato' Dr. Teo Kok Seong, language had proven to be a force to be reckoned with throughout the

“For example, during the ancient days of China, Emperor Shih Huang Ti had successfully used language, i writing system, to unite the people of China, a country of diverse dialects.

“It is the same in the modern era, for language especially the native language or mother tongue, has b demonstrated to be successful in the West and some good examples that are often highlighted are those and German.

“In this region, Indonesia is seen as having effectively united its people, said to consist of some 1,500 eth dialects. And not only that, the Indonesians are very articulate in their language. They love their languag during an intellectual discourse held at Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

The intellectual discourse, Program *Bicara Cendekiawan Mulia Siri* 5, was organised by the Vice-Chancello

It was held at the Banquet Hall, Tun Abdul Razak Chancellery in UMP Pekan Campus on December 19, 20

Professor Dato’ Dr. Teo said Malaysia had been determined to use the Malay language, already enshri integrate its multi-racial people.

“The use of the language as a tool of unison was stated in the Razak Report in 1956 which later became 1957 and eventually, the Education Act 1961 and 1996.

“In Part 17 of the Education Act 1996 (that replaces the Act of 1961) and under the title ‘National Langua national language must be the main medium of language in all learning institutes in the National Education

“Since 1957, the Malay language has already played the role as a language to unite the people, in the co said.

On how far this sovereign state had advocated the Malay language and whether it had successfully reflecte his reply was: ‘No’.

He said in the context of the Malay language being appreciated as a nation language that could be used united nation and reflect the nation’s linguistic identity, it had failed in Malaysia.

“It is time for us to rationally scrutinise the reasons behind this failure. To me, the main reason is that some the language fluently, the language of the country.

“There should be a ruling or an edict that every citizen must know the country’s language very well and hav

“It is not only about not having a good command of the language that has become a problem, there seems language, an unwillingness among the Chinese society for example, to not to identify themselves with the M

However, the government had tried for so long to overcome the problem of misunderstanding relating to the

“This can be seen from the efforts taken by the government to improve Malay language skills in vernacula hours of teaching the language, from 180 minutes to 270 minutes every week for pupils of Year Four, Year

“Another is to streamline the syllabus at national schools *(Sekolah Kebangsaan)* and vernacular schools *(S*

“However, these efforts were met with strong objections by the Chinese, seen through the articles by Chi be clearly seen from issues involving the teaching of *Jawi* through *khat* lessons in idioms which was rais emerging again in the middle of December the same year,” he said.

He also said the government appeared to ‘concede’ to the pressures of these vernacular education activis had been reduced from six pages to three pages from the total pages of 164 for Year 4 and by making it an

“However, the Chinese-stream education activists, Dong Jiao Zong, continued to mount pressure on the g to appoint them, through the Board of School, so they can have the final say on choices to be made by pare matters involving teaching *Jawi* writings to Chinese children.

“This kind of attitude is anti-national in nature as they are going against the national interest, of the Malay and of the Malay language being the national aspiration and a tool of unity.

“This is especially so after the matter was already mutually agreed in the Agreement of Independence or po

“Based on these examples, it clearly shows that we are not united, we are not united in our heart and soul the national language,” he added.

In other words, there was no solid support from a group of people to accept or in making good the nati meaning of the Malay language as a national language and a tool of unity.

“A *negara bangsa* generally refers to a sovereign country that has gained independence, and the citizens li

“A united citizen, be it a homogenous one – that comprises only one race such as Japan or a heterogene as Malaysia, exists because of various factors that are eventually progressed into the country’s policies.

“These policies are drawn up because the country and the people have the same language, history, culture

The intellectual discourse is a monthly programme that features prominent figures within the country and a issues.

Among those invited to share their ideas and views included veteran politician and former minister Tan Datuk Dr. Nik Safiah Karim who spoke on a topic titled, ‘The Malay Language and Challenges in Strength New Era.’

The guests present at the talk were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff International), Professor Ts. Dr. Mohd. Rosli Hainin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation), Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Professor Dato’ Dr. Yuserrie Zainuddin.

“Overcoming Setback”

Translation by: NADIRA HANA AB HAMID, FACULTY OF MANUFACTURING AND MECHATRONIC ENG

Changing of supervisor at the very last minute was never a stumbling block for Dr. Mohamad Rusydi Moh managed to finishes his studies on time.

According to him, UMP has given him ample time and space, therefore he feels the need to repay the trust

“With that, I’ve tried my best and went extra mile to complete this study.

“At that time my biggest concern was, whether I can finish my studies on time or not.

"However, with the help and support from my friends and especially the officials in the Registry Department

He added, after a series of discussions with the university and new appointed supervisors, the study resum

"That's when you need to sacrifice everything, including your free times and weekend with the loved one midnight,” he said.

More than anything, Dr. Mohamad Rusydi achieved his goal of completing a PhD within four years, from Purdue University, United States of America.

Dr. Mohamad Rusydi, currently a lecturer at Faculty of Manufacturing and Mechatronics Engineering academic staffs in Staff Appreciation and Completion of Study Ceremony organized by the Registry on 16th

Sharing his experience finishing the PhD, planning and discussion with the supervisor is very important. An hesitate to seek help.

He advises those who are currently continuing their studies to work hard and steadfast to achieve their goa

“The challenges vary from one to another but it left me with bittersweet memories in this world of PhD.

“In addition, studying abroad has also given me such an amazing experience especially in learning the life are more open, bold and hardworking.

“My industry-based research provides me with knowledge to help solve industry problems,” he elaborates fu

As a lecturer, he is proud of the university's achievements especially in world-class rating and recognition.

Also receiving the Graduate on Time (GOT) programme incentive for excellence is Dr. Noor Intan Shafin Process Engineering Technology, Dr. Mohd Fazli Farida Asras, Dr Nazira Mahmud from Faculty of Scienc Mohd Zainudin from Faculty of Industrial Management and Dr. Noradilah Md Nordin from the Centre for Hu

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