

MEDIUM

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KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 4 (BERNAMA)—BAHASA MALAYSIA WILL REPLACE ENGLISH AS THE MAIN MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION IN PRIMARY ONE IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AIDED ENGLISH SCHOOLS IN SARAWAK FROM JAN. 1 NEXT YEAR.

THIS WAS ANNOUNCED IN A JOINT STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, AND SARAWAK CHIEF MINISTER DATUK PATINGGI HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN YAKUB HERE TODAY.

THE STATEMENT SAYS TO FULFIL THE OBJECTIVE OF THE NATIONAL EDUCATION SYSTEM THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO CONVERT IN STAGES THE MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FROM ENGLISH TO BAHASA MALAYSIA IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AIDED ENGLISH PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SARAWAK.

THIS WILL BEGIN WITH PRIMARY ONE AS FROM JAN. 1 - 1977.

BAHASA MALAYSIA WAS MADE A COMPULSORY SUBJECT IN PRIMARY ONE IN ALL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT AIDED SCHOOLS THIS YEAR.

THIS WILL BE EXTENDED TO PRIMARY TWO NEXT YEAR, PRIMARY THREE IN 1978 AND SO ON.

THE STATEMENT SAYS THE GOVERNMENT HAS ENOUGH TEACHERS TO SEE THE CONVERSION THROUGH.

IT IS EXPECTED THAT BY 1982, BAHASA MALAYSIA WILL BECOME THE MAIN MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION AT ALL LEVELS IN THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS CONCERNED, BY 1987 AT ALL LEVELS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND 1989 AT FORM SIX LEVEL.

THE GOVERNMENT HAS ALSO DECIDED TO EXTEND THE TEXT BOOK LOAN SCHEME TO PUPILS IN PRIMARY ONE BAHASA MALAYSIA MEDIUM SCHOOL IN SARAWAK FROM NEXT YEAR. -- BERNAMA HM 2135