

Science and Maths will be in English

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Panel to study its implementation

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SHAH ALAM, Sat. — Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad today confirmed that Science and Mathematics will be taught in English and said a committee had been set up to determine how and when it could be implemented.

He said the committee was headed by Education director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat.

"It will be implemented but it is still too early to say how or when it will be done," he said when met at Umno's 56th anniversary celebrations at Stadium Malawati here.

It is learnt that the committee will look into all aspects of implementation including the availability of teachers who can deliver the subjects in English.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced a proposal made by the party's supreme council yesterday that Science and Mathematics be taught in English to help arrest the declining standards of the language among students.

Dr Mahathir said Umno hoped the move could be carried out as

soon as possible, starting from Standard One.

He also said the teaching of contemporary English literature involving works by current writers would also help enhance the stan-

dard of the language among school-children.

The supreme council also decided that it was unnecessary to re-introduce the English-medium school system.

Various quarters had called for steps to be taken to arrest the decline in English among Malaysians.

Among the proposals that were bandied about earlier included establishing English-medium schools, sending teachers overseas to be trained in English, and to hold university tutorials and co-curricular activities in the language. Some had been implemented.

Meanwhile, DAP chairman Lim Kit Siang said the problem of the unchecked decline in the standard of English had become "too chronic and protracted".

He said all efforts in the past decade to raise the standard of English had not only come to nought, but seen a further deterioration of the language in schools and universities. He added that the public should be allowed to give their views on how to arrest the decline.

"We propose the establishment of an all-party committee to be tasked with the terms of reference to invite representations and submit a report on this issue within a year."