

'Not much time left to implement policy'

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — The Government is proceeding with its plan to use English as the medium of instruction for Mathematics and Science at all levels from next year as it is an urgent matter.

While admitting there would be problems during the initial stage, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government could not wait any longer as the world was moving too fast.

The Umno president said there would always be a problem when a new policy or approach was introduced by the Government.

"If we cannot overcome such problems then we are not fit to rule," he said after a closed-door meeting with divisional heads at the Putra World Trade Centre here today.

He said there was not much time left for the Government to implement the policy as the world was moving at a rapid pace.

"What is produced today will be out of date tomorrow," he added.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed that all Mathematics and Science papers for the UPSR, PMR and SPM examinations would be in English from next year.

The Prime Minister said the people would be left behind if they adopted the attitude of living in a primitive world where it took decades to effect change.

He also hit out at the Opposition for criticising the Government for implementing the policy.

"They (the Opposition) will always claim what we are planning is bad but they themselves do nothing."

On the Senai Umno division's no-confidence vote against Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamed, Dr Mahathir said the division's committee was not competent to propose such a resolution.

"I understand that the motion was

not even moved in a complete divisional meeting and it was only done at the committee level."

He said resolutions could only be passed during divisional meetings while a no-confidence vote could only be made against the Cabinet and Government and not against a Cabinet Minister.

"It means that their intention was to move a no-confidence motion against the Government and the Umno supreme council," he said.

Dr Mahathir said to pass a resolution like that, certain procedures must be observed and it was clear that the division did not follow them.

He said the party headquarters would be inundated with resolutions if the process was that simple.

He declined to say whether action would be taken against the division but said the speaker would make the decision if the resolution was brought up at the annual general assembly.