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Rais: Groups opposed to English should beware of Sedition Act

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PUTRAJAYA, Tues. - Minority groups opposing the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English can be charged under the Sedition Act if it is proven that they do not have the national interest at heart and are seeking to foment dissent and division in society.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said the Government would not hesitate to use the instruments of law against anyone if there was sufficient evidence to prove their seditious acts.

"The reality is that there is a voice of the majority against the voice of the minority. In a democracy, the voice of the majority ought to prevail, but in this case, we seem to be listening too much to the minority.

"It is about time the reality of democracy was practised and the essence of the democratic process be put to work," Rais said after an hour's meeting with Umno Youth Public Complaints Secretariat leaders at his office.

Rais said the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English must be adopted as it had received the approval of the majority, while the minority ought to stand aside and give the Government a chance to perform.

"We do not like to use threats, but if the minority groups continue to harp on seditious matters, then the Sedition Act will be used against them," he added.

In response to a question, Rais said no community could resort to taking the law into its own hands after the Government had decided to implement the policy, consented to by the majority, that Mathematics and Science be taught in English.

"Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad listened to their views despite having made the decision to implement it. Once it has been decided and approved by the Government's highest body, then no one should object," he added.

He said if certain quarters want to pursue the matter, instigate people, make seditious statements and cause disunity, action could be taken against them under existing laws.

Rais called on minority groups opposed to the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English to stop "spoiling the show" for the sake of narrow political or socio-cultural concerns.

He said it was time such minority groups placed national interest first, as the proposal's implementation would benefit Malaysia and Malaysians.