

21 OCT 2002

Aziz-Tolerance

AZIZ WARNS GROUPS AGAINST ABUSING TOLERANCE

PORT DICKSON, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsudin today reminded certain parties not to take advantage of the tolerance practised in this country and act outside of the established framework.

He feared that if there was abuse of this spirit of tolerance the country would stand to lose greatly and there would be dire consequences.

"If the Malays, Chinese or Indians abuse tolerance they will face big problems," he said when commenting on the MCA Central Committee's decision to reject English in the teaching of science and mathematics in Chinese primary schools from next year.

"We have been independent for 45 years and the various races in Malaysia have been enjoying peace, prosperity and harmony. However if we try to act beyond the limit, then we will face a serious problem," he said.

Earlier he opened the national level education carnival at Padang Merdeka here.

He said the move to switch to English in the teaching of science and mathematics was to ensure a better future for the young generation of Malaysians.

"We are implementing English because we are responsible. I will stick to the view expressed by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that our children face a challenging future in this world and it is important that English be given priority," Aziz said.

He advised the parties and groups which opposed the English proposal to think rationally and not be governed by their emotions.

"Any person who is unable to overcome his emotion will face problems. We have not heard about the entire Chinese community opposing the move only the views of some of their leaders."

He said English would be implemented in the teaching of science and mathematics in Standard One, Form One and Lower Six.

-- BERNAMA

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