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BN will find solution to Maths and Science issue, says DPM

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi today expressed hope that MCA's stand to oppose the Government's proposal to teach Science and Mathematics in English in all Chinese primary schools next year is nothing more than an expression of its views.

"I hope it will not reach a level of a political threat to the Government or the other Barisan Nasional component parties."

Abdullah said he believed the MCA was merely expressing its views on the issue and stressed that it was not a problem for the BN to find a consensus and resolve the issue amicably.

He was speaking at a Press conference after launching the Cheras Education Foundation website and chairing a closed-door meeting with the Federal Territory Umno liaison committee at Nikko Hotel here.

Abdullah said this when asked whether the MCA's central committee decision on the issue could be construed as an attempt by the MCA to influence others not to support the Government's proposal.

Abdullah said he could not predict a definite consensus on the issue in the BN supreme council meeting tomorrow.

"It will mostly depend on the BN chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on what should be discussed in the meeting."

Abdullah said if a decision was to be made by the Government, it would be that the implementation should be on schedule.

He said the Education Ministry had made the necessary preparations and was "ever ready" to implement the move anytime if the Government decided to proceed.

On whether the BN was close to finding a consensus, Abdullah said the BN component parties had previously agreed to use English to teach Science and Mathematics.

Abdullah said the disagreement was at the level where English should be taught in the teaching of the two subjects.

On whether the BN would use force to ensure that all component parties in the BN would agree to the move, Abdullah said this method was never used in the history of the BN.

Abdullah was also asked on the arrest of Muslim cleric Abubakar Bashir in Indonesia. "It is up to Indonesia as they have their own laws."

On the invitation of the Institute of Strategic and International Studies to Sri Lankan terrorism analyst Rohan Gunaratna to give lectures at the institute, Abdullah said it was up to ISIS to make its own judgment on the matter.

On whether the Government has banned Gunaratna's book, Inside Al-Qaeda: Global Network of Terror, he said, no decision had been made.