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Mahathir-English

CHINESE SCHOOL PUPILS NEED TO TAKE TWO PAPERS FOR SCIENCE, MATHS

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Chinese primary school pupils need to take two different examination papers for the Standard Six Assessment Test (UPSR) for Science and Mathematics following the implementation of the policy to teach the two subjects in English next year, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said they need to sit for Science and Mathematics in Mandarin and English as the two subjects would be taught in the languages.

Speaking at a media conference after chairing the Barisan Nasional (BN) supreme council meeting, he said, the four Chinese-based BN component parties accepted the policy to teach Science and Mathematics in English with some modifications.

He said the Chinese schools would reduce the periods for certain subjects to allocate time to teach Science and Mathematics in English.

The four parties -- MCA, Gerakan, Sarawak United People's Party and Sabah Progressive Party -- were given a week to come up with a suitable formula on the method of teaching the two subjects in English after its implementation was agreed upon at the last BN supreme council meeting on Oct 29.

MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik told reporters after the meeting that Chinese school pupils would only take the Science and Mathematics paper in mandarin in UPSR examination under the common syllabus for the two subjects.

He said the Science and Mathematics test in English would only be held as an internal examination at the school level.

At the media conference, Dr Mahathir said the modifications proposed by the Chinese-based BN components to implement the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English did not affect the policy agreed to by the government.

The proposed modifications include reductions in the periods for Mandarin, physical and moral education, he said.

"The periods for Mandarin has been reduced from 15 to 12, physical and moral education has been cut by one period, respectively," he said.

With the modifications, the weekly periods in Chinese primary schools would be nine for Bahasa Malaysia (no change), 12 for Mandarin (less three periods), two for English (no change), six for Mathematics in Mandarin and four for Mathematics in English and three periods each for Science in Mandarin and English.

The periods for moral education has been reduced to four (less one period) while the period for physical education has been cut to two (less one period).

Dr Mahathir said under the modifications, the weekly periods for Chinese primary schools have been increased to 50 from 46.

Replying to a question, he said, the examination in two different languages for Science and Mathematics for Chinese primary schools might be implemented for four to five years.

Asked whether the proposals would be a burden to pupils, he said, it was a different matter but the government had given more time up to 50 periods a week for Chinese primary schools.

-- BERNAMA

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