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Rafidah-English

USE OF ENGLISH HELPS YOUNGER GENERATION TO BE MORE COMPETITIVE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno chief Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said today the use of English language in the teaching of science and mathematics will assist the younger generation to be more competitive in the era of globalisation.

She said those who opposed the use of English in the teaching of the two subjects should look at it objectively and should not have any doubt about its implementation.

The use of English in teaching the two subjects would also not erode the identity of any race, she said at a media conference after chairing the movement's exco meeting at Umno headquarters, here.

From experience, she said, the children of Malays, Chinese, Indians or any other race who went for further studies abroad and using various languages including English for years, had not lost their racial identity or forgotten their culture.

She said the administrators of Chinese primary schools should look at the usage of English as something that could develop their younger generation, because this approach was on par with the global approach.

In fact, she said, Japan and China were now adopting a total immersion approach in the teaching of English language.

"Those who fear the use of English language are those who have weak self-identity," Rafidah said.

She said Wanita Umno fully supported the government policy to implement the use of English in the teaching of science and mathematics in schools.

On the PAS campaigns during the by-elections for the Pendang parliamentary and Anak Bukit state seats in Kedah last month, she said the opposition party was prepared to resort to whatever means to win the elections even if what they did had deviated from the Islamic religion, culture and ethics.

Rafidah said such acts showed that PAS was desperate in wanting to win the election.

She said Wanita Umno had completed its report on the by-elections, including the weaknesses and inadequacies identified.

The report would be submitted to Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

-- BERNAMA

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