

25 AUG 2002

Abdullah-Clarify

ABDULLAH CLARIFIES OUTCOME OF MEETING WITH MALAY NGO'S

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 25 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said today that media reports on his meeting with representatives from 36 non-governmental organisations (NGO's) representing Malay interests are inaccurate.

There was no total agreement on the use of English to teach Science and Mathematics in schools.

"Some agreed while others did not," he told Bernama.

They also felt that the use of Bahasa Malaysia in the teaching of Science and Mathematics should not be blamed for Malay students' weakness in the two subjects, he said.

The representatives also did not oppose efforts to upgrade the teaching and learning of English so that students would be more efficient and skilled in using the language.

"What needs to be done is to improve the method of teaching these subjects and make it more effective," he said.

They also wanted more effective measures to be taken to upgrade the teaching and learning of Bahasa Malaysia in schools to enhance its status as the national language and language of knowledge.

The meeting with the NGO's was held at the Umno headquarters here yesterday.

He said however they were not against the English language policy.

Abdullah said he would present their views to the government especially to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for consideration.

He made the clarification because newspapers today reported that the 36 NGO's had agreed to the use of English in the teaching of science and mathematics in schools from next year.

-- BERNAMA

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