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Mahathir-NCWO (Pix)

NCWO SUBMITS PROPOSALS TO PM ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE ISSUE

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- The National Council of Women's Organisations (NCWO) today submitted several suggestions to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad concerning the use of English in the teaching of science and mathematics in schools.

Its president, Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said among the suggestions was that the use of English in teaching the two subjects should be implemented simultaneously including for standard two up to standard six in primary schools from next year.

The government had decided that all national schools use English to teach the two subjects for Year 1, Form 1 and Lower 6 beginning next year.

"The government should also allow schools with the capability to implement it for Forms 1, 2 and 4 by 2003," she said after leading 33 representatives of women's organisations under the NCWO at a meeting with Dr Mahathir, here.

She said Forms 3 and 5 students should be exempted as they would be sitting for major examinations.

In addition, the NCWO suggested that the government provided adequate teachers by employing retirees, providing courses and extended services during weekends and school holidays besides enhancing skills in English with software assistance.

Zaleha said infrastructure such as computer laboratories at mobile learning centres, computer loan schemes and repair facilities should also be provided.

She said the syllabus for English language should also be reviewed in line with its status as a global language and no longer as a second language.

She said the NCWO was prepared to give support services in implementing the policy including explaining it to the more than one million members of its 116 affiliated organisations and to the community right up to the grassroots level.

She said Dr Mahathir welcomed the suggestions although the policy might not be implemented immediately.

-- BERNAMA

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