

21 OCT 2002

Khalil-English

NO NEED FOR EXTREMES IN DEBATING ENGLISH LANGUAGE ISSUE, SAYS KHALIL

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- There is no need for extremes in debating the English language issue since the Cabinet has not discussed it for the final decision, said Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

"At the Cabinet level, we have not made any conclusion or decision. So, there's no need for extremes," he told reporters after opening a National Corporate Communication Conference 2002 here.

He said the Cabinet would take note of all the views expressed on the matter.

Khalil was asked to comment on MCA's opposition to the Government's proposal to teach Science and Mathematics in English in all Chinese primary schools next year.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the final decision on the proposal would be made by the Cabinet.

Khalil said many had forgotten what the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad had said on the proposal, namely the introduction of a new teaching technique with teachers as facilitators.

"We can't imagine it in the traditional sense," he said.

He said the Information Ministry and Education Ministry had formulated a programme to show to the people on the need to use English.

Khalil said Radio Television Malaysia (RTM) had telecast the programme several times during the "Selamat Pagi Malaysia" segment and would also telecast it during prime time.

"We will give the background on what is meant by using English to teach Science and Mathematics and the modules to be used," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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