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Khalil-English

PAS AND KEADILAN OUT FOR POLITICAL GAINS ON ENGLISH ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 14 (Bernama) -- PAS and Keadilan are trying to gain political mileage by supporting the Chinese education movement's opposition to the use of English to teach Science and Mathematics in Chinese primary schools, Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said today.

Khalil said the opposition parties wanted to show that they were united on the issue.

"We know this is improper political fusion, and they are purposely fishing in troubled waters," he told reporters after launching the Information Department's Quality Day here.

Khalil, who is Umno secretary-general, said this when asked to comment on newspaper reports yesterday that the two parties had expressed support for Chinese education movement Dong Jiao Zong's stand on the matter.

The movement is against the formula to use both English and Mandarin to teach Science and Mathematics in Chinese primary schools although the move has been accepted by the Barisan Nasional (BN) on the recommendation of its Chinese-based component parties.

Khalil said Umno had always played its role to convince fellow BN component parties to accept decisions made by the government.

"This is the reality; any decision made should get the support of all," he said.

Khalil said the component parties had given an assurance to defend the policy on the use of English.

Meanwhile, Khalil said the ministry planned to translate the book entitled "Koleksi Ucapan Perdana Menteri" (Collection of Prime Minister's Speeches) into other languages like Arabic, French, Spanish, Russian and Chinese.

"Some books of the Prime Minister which have been translated into other languages have been well received," he said.

Khalil said many Arab leaders had asked for these books to be distributed more widely so that more people could read them.

Printers there had suggested that the books be printed in Cairo and Beirut as the two cities were quite comprehensive distribution centres, he said.

"This can be done with the agreement of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the PM's Office," he said.

At the ceremony, Khalil presented the MS ISO 9002 certificate to the Information Department for its dissemination of information on government policies.

Khalil also launched the Bahasa Malaysia and English versions of Koleksi Ucapan Mahathir 2001, "Madah Perdana" and 2003 calendar.

-- BERNAMA

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