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Pas Youth: Retract decision to stop funding religious schools

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Pas Youth wants the Government to retract its decision to stop funding People's Religious School, the Sekolah Agama Rakyat (SAR).

Youth head Mahfuz Omar today said the movement also wanted funds for SAR to be increased to enable the schools to upgrade their infrastructure development like building computer laboratories.

"We also urge all Barisan Nasional leaders to stop making negative statements about the schools and acknowledge its contribution to the nation's education sector."

Mahfuz said this after presenting a memorandum to the Education Ministry protesting against the Government's move to stop funding the schools. The memorandum was received by Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad's special officer, Irmohizam Ibrahim.

Pas Youth also voiced their objection over the Government's move to teach Science and Mathematics in English starting next year.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had on Oct 22 announced the move to stop funds for SAR, saying the schools had been misused to teach children politics instead of religion.

He said the funding would only be resumed after the Government could distinguish genuine religious schools from political ones.

Mahfuz said he was disappointed the Education Minister was not around to receive the memorandum personally.

On Pas Youth's move to send letters to the Malay Rulers asking them to intervene in the Government's decision to stop funding the schools, Mahfuz said they were still awaiting their reply.

"We sent letters to all the Malay Rulers two weeks ago. We hope to get a reply soon."