

16/06/2002

Science, Maths in English as scheduled

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SEREMBAN, Sat. - The Education Ministry, despite objections from various quarters including an Umno division, will proceed with the plan to implement the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English in schools beginning next year.

A senior Ministry official said, "Although it cannot be denied that the move has been made on an ad hoc basis, the teaching of the two subjects in English will go ahead as scheduled as every possible attempt is being put into place (by the Ministry) to ensure its success."

The Senai Umno division passed a vote of no-confidence against Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad yesterday over the matter.

The division held a special meeting, chaired by division chief Adam Abdul Hamid, to discuss the 10 per cent quota for non-Bumiputera students at Mara Junior Science Colleges, the matriculation programme, and the use of English in Mathematics and Science in schools.

Adam, who is Johor Public Works Committee chairman, said the unanimous vote of no-confidence expressed the division's dissatisfaction with the way Musa had been handling education issues.

Adam was also quoted as saying that the minister had made several decisions on an ad-hoc basis.

The official added that the ministry had appointed master trainers to teach some 600 teachers who would be teaching the subjects in English.

The teachers would undergo training at five centres, including two in Sabah and Sarawak, next month.

The official said the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English in Standard One and extended to Standard Two the following year.

He said the curriculum and textbooks were being translated into English.

On May 11, Musa announced that Mathematics and Science would be taught in the language. A committee, led by the ministry's director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat, had been set up to oversee its implementation.

Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced a proposal by the party's supreme council recently that Science and Mathematics be taught in English to help arrest the declining standard of the language.

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