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'Use English at all primary levels'

Manisah Ismail

PUTRAJAYA, Wed. - The teaching of Science and Mathematics in English should be carried out simultaneously for all primary students from Standard One to Six beginning next year to improve their proficiency in the language, the National Council of Women Organisations said.

Council president Datin Paduka Zaleha Ismail said the use of English in the teaching of the two subjects should also cover students at secondary schools, except those in examination classes such as Forms Three and Five.

These, she said, were among the few suggestions proposed by the council at a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

"We also proposed for all schools, including vernacular schools, to share the same curriculum in the teaching of the subjects," she told a Press conference after the meeting.

About 45 NCWO members were present. Among them were its deputy president and chairman of its education commission Prof Puan Sri Fatimah Hamid Don and its human rights commission chairman F.R. Bhupalan.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said yesterday that the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English would proceed as planned for Standard One, Form One and Lower Six at national schools next year.

Zaleha said the council fully supported the Government's policy to use English in the teaching of Science and Mathematics.

"It is a wise move to improve proficiency in the language among students," she added.

The council, she said, also raised the need for teachers to be sent for training more often to improve their competency and teaching skills.

"To overcome the shortage of teachers, we have retired teachers."