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English not a threat to Bahasa Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Government's encouragement to learn English should not be seen as a threat to the national language.

Women and Family Development Minister Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil said the Government wanted Malaysians to be competitive.

"We must accept that English is the main language in international relations," she said when launching Puteri Umno's English-on-Wheels programme for the Lembah Pantai division at SK Bukit Pantai today.

The programme targets children aged four to nine, and is free.

It uses a mobile unit of volunteers from Puteri Umno. So far, the unit has travelled to Pahang, Johor, Kedah and Putrajaya.

Today, the unit travelled to various areas in Kuala Lumpur, including SK Bukit Pantai where 200 children took part in the activities.

Later, Shahrizat and guests signed a banner to be presented to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on his retirement.

Present were Kuala Lumpur Territory Umno liaison secretary Datuk Syed Ali Alhabshee and Lembah Pantai Umno division information chief Yusri Ahmad.