

Nothing 'petty' or 'racial' about defending BM
Malaysiakini.com
Fudzail Jan 9, 2009

I refer to the writer's comments in the Malaysiakini report
MCPX
Gapena, think of others too.

There are two different issues here, but first and foremost, the same 'petty racial issues' are also being championed by the Dong Jiao Zong, a Chinese education group which has been very vocal against the use of English to teach maths and science in vernacular primary schools.

If the writer sees this matter as being petty and racial, then I would say the same of Dong Jiao Zong.

Teaching maths and science in English will not solve the problem of unemployed graduates unable to secure jobs due to an inability to speak English fluently.

There is a need to improve drastically the teaching of English as a communication language rather than burdening the students to cope with additional comprehension and workload in learning maths and science in English.

The writer is definitely not from the rural areas where predominantly Malay students are already handicapped by poor facilities as well as tools in catching up with those urban students (predominantly non-Malays).

The statistics revealed by the education minister on the PMR and UPSR exam results show improvements year after year for these two subject but this dubious and doubtful. Can you believe government propaganda which is only to hide their own mistakes and blunders?

Talk to the teachers who are struggling to speak in English, let alone teach in this language. We have developed countries which never used English to teach maths and science and they include Japan, Germany, France, Denmark and Russia.

This while some Third World countries which been using English as the main medium are still lagging behind on all fronts. The question here is, 'why do we need to teach maths and science in English since we have been successful in producing technical graduates using the Malay language?

What is so wrong in protecting our own language and being proud of it? We are concerned about Malay language being sidelined and dying off as a technical language. The Dong Jiao Zong is right and so are others who oppose this move. We have our democratic right to oppose and we are not stupid.

I am one of those students from the rural areas who was taught in the Malay medium up to the SPM level with very poor command of English. It was an English language intensive course that improved my English tremendously.

I wonder why the same kind of syllabus and methods are not being used in the schools. Why do we need to spend (or rather waste) more money on teaching maths and science in English while neglecting the basic problem of teaching the English language itself?

Why not spend the same amount of our money to improve the teaching of English?

Yes, I am ashamed of Zam's poor command of English. He should have spoken in Malay just like other world leaders who proudly speak in their own national language even if they can speak English fluently.

That's Zam's arrogance in showing off his poor English to the whole world. We were never proud of him anyway.

Copyright © 1999-2007 Mkini Dotcom Sdn. Bhd.

Source <http://www.malaysiakini.com/letters/96127>