

# Subject now Bahasa Malaysia

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## Schools, education divisions informed of change in circular

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The subject Bahasa Melayu will now be referred to as Bahasa Malaysia in all schools and a circular on this was sent out to all state education departments and ministry divisions on May 18.

"They have been informed about the change as we must follow the Cabinet directive," Education director-general Datuk Dr Ahamad Sipon told reporters after launching the *Agent Penny and Will Power in Operation Finance* financial literacy programme jointly organised by Citibank Bhd, the Malaysian Invention and Design Society (MINDS) and the

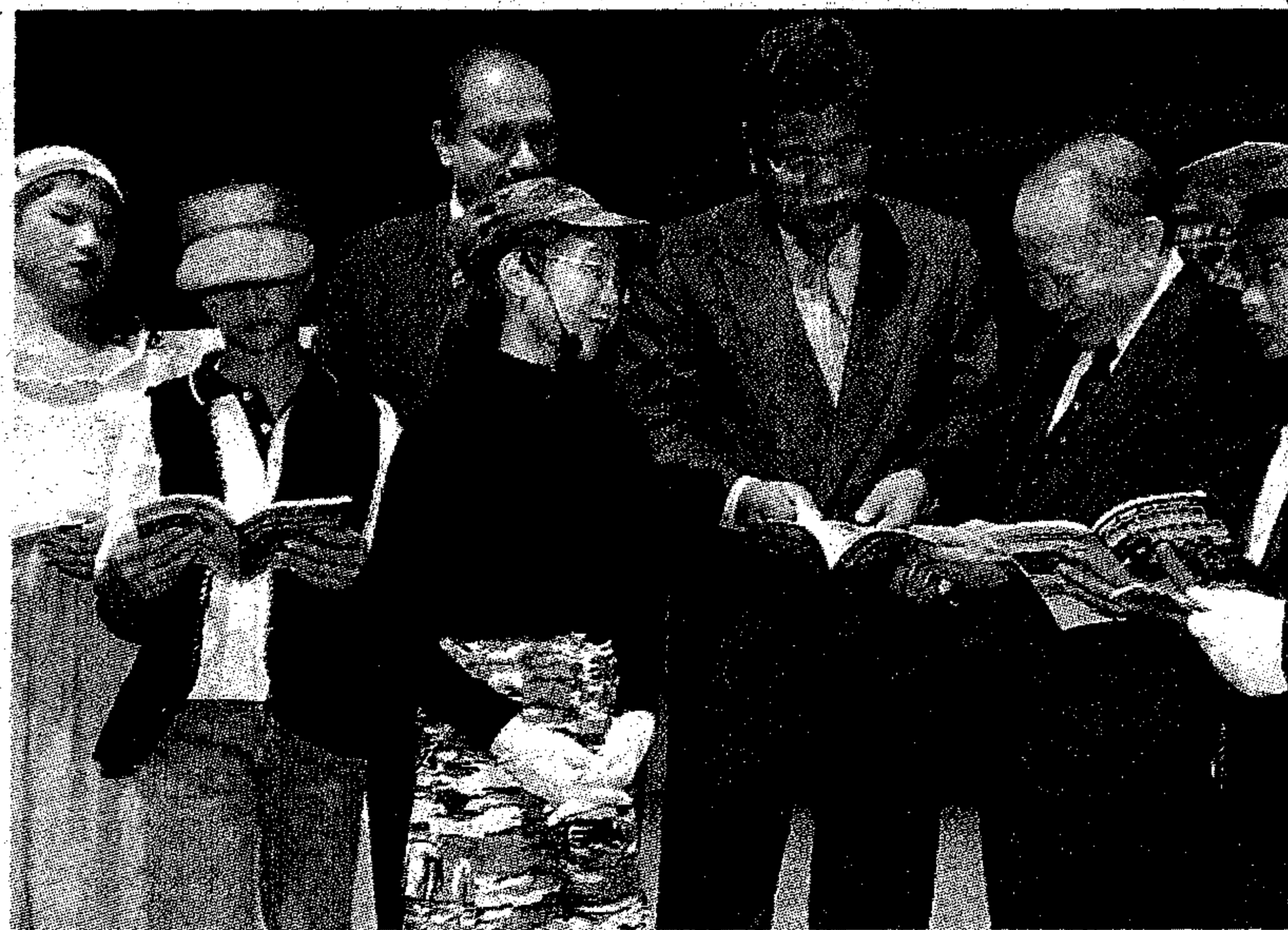
Education Ministry yesterday.

Dr Ahamad was asked to comment on *The Star's* front-page report on Monday about the Cabinet's decision to refer to Malaysia's national language as Bahasa Malaysia rather than Bahasa Melayu.

Since 1992, the subject has been known as Bahasa Melayu in both the Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examinations.

Earlier, Dr Ahamad said it was crucial for children to learn how to manage money from young.

"The use of superhero characters such as Agent Penny or Ejen Mas and Will Power or Azam is a creative way to reach out to our schoolchildren,"



**Comic relief:** Dr Ahamad (in yellow tie) browsing through the *Agent Penny* comic book with SJKC Sempalit pupils. Looking on are MINDS president Tan Sri Dr Augustine Ong and Viegas (partially hidden).

he said.

The *Agent Penny and Will Power in Operation Finance* comic book is a sequel to *The Adventures of Agent Penny and Will Power* launched by Citibank in Malaysia in 2005, targeting pupils aged between 10 and 12.

Citibank Bhd chief operating officer Renzo Viegas said that based on Citibank's global experience, financial education should form a large part of a growing child's education.

"Over the last two years since the comic book series was launched, we have seen pupils enjoying the comics and the skit they have to per-

form as part of the programme, and at the end of it, understanding money and how to manage their savings," he said.

Pupils from SK Pandan Perdana in Selangor, SJKC Sempalit in Pahang and SK Long Sukang in Sarawak later held a drama competition on the importance of saving money in the context of their own community.

SK Pandan Perdana was named the winner and won RM2,000. The consolation prizes went to SJKC Sempalit and SK Long Sukang, which received RM1,000 each.