

Ministry has no plan to scrap the UPSR yet

The Star - 19/1/2007

PETALING JAYA: The Education Ministry has no plan to abolish the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) right away, said Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.

"What are we going to substitute it with? But we are slowly moving in that direction with term-based assessment," he told *The Star*.

Hishammuddin called for public feedback on the issue, saying: "I am interested in what people think. The more views we get, the better."

He was asked to comment on a *Bernama* report quoting Federation of Malaysian Headmasters Council chairman Awang Mohamad as saying that the ministry should abolish the UPSR, which is seen as too focused on academic achievement.

National Union of the Teaching Profession secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng called for the UPSR to be retained until there was a better way for pupils to be assessed.

"We should stick with the examination until then," she added.

A parent, Mary Joyce, felt that Year Six pupils were put under a lot of stress because of the examination.

However, she believed there was a need for an examination.

But it would be good if the UPSR was not 100% examination-based," she said.