

DATE: 2 / 12 / 2009

MALAY MAIL

SPIES in, BTN out

Selangor snubs Federal authorities, saying its course is more meaningful

Malay Mail - 2/12/09

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SHAH ALAM: While bickering continues over the status of the Biro Tatanegara (BTN) civics courses, the Selangor government has moved ahead and decided to implement its own version of the programme.

In a move widely seen as a snub to the Federal government, Selangor will introduce its course, called



BTN format which takes five days and four nights.

"We aim to create a programme for civil servants which is not only cost-effective but also one that can produce holistic individuals," Dr Halimah said.

She said SPIES is open to all Malaysians.

It will include the participation of NGOs as well as members of the private sector who would serve as

linked companies from attending the BTN course.

The State says BTN promotes racial disharmony, and that its course modules are an indoctrination process of the Barisan Nasional government to divide Malaysia's multiracial and multireligious community.

The Opposition-led Penang government also declared it might follow Selangor's move in preventing

do not stimulate the minds of the students. It all depends on the teachers to make the students think," he said. Muhyiddin said students in Chinese schools performed better in science and maths because they were taught in their mother tongue. Ismail had also asked the minister whether outdated textbooks had caused the large number of drop-outs in Kelantan, numbering some 125,000.

He was replying to a supplementary question from M. Kulasegaran (DAP-Ipoh Barat) who said history books were being distorted for political reasons. "This does not augur well for students who later discover the truth elsewhere, and this is not in line with the Education Ministry's objectives," Ismail Md Said (BN-Krau), Muhyiddin, who is also deputy prime minister,

