

**Respect Decision On Language Policy In Education, Says DPM
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 29 (Bernama) -- The government's decision to implement the policy of Empowering Bahasa Melayu and Strengthening the English Language (MBMMBI) and abolishing the teaching and learning of Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI) should be respected and accepted by all parties, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

He said it will lead to chaos in the country's education system if the government were to allow parents the freedom of choice as to which medium they wanted.

"It will be difficult for the Education Ministry to cater to the schools and there's also the question of providing teachers.

"We know that some of our English teachers are not up to the mark, so if a school chooses English but doesn't have good teachers it won't work," he said after declaring open the 8th Malay Literary and Language Congress here, today.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, addressed fears by certain quarters that the policy meant less attention would be given to English and gave the assurance that the language will not be marginalised once PPSMI was abolished.

The Parent Action Group for Education Malaysia or PAGE had earlier appealed to the government to maintain the PPSMI or allow parents a choice in the matter.

Muhyiddin said he believes the MBMMBI implemented for this year's Standard 1 pupils to learn Science and Mathematics in Bahasa Melayu will show results in a few years.

"We have introduced a few initiatives, such as improving the English syllabus in schools, to make it more attractive and effective and have increased weekly lessons from 240 to 300 minutes," he said.

"We have brought in native speaker teachers and placed them throughout the country as master teachers. It appears to be an effective way to monitor our English teachers," he added.

"We are also in the midst of training 10,000 English teachers at the Malaysian Teachers Training Institute," he said.

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