

**Page says parents' right to choose PPSMI**  
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**By Lisa J. Ariffin**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13 — A parents' lobby group today told the government to give them a voice on the now-abandoned policy of teaching Mathematics and Science in English (PPSMI), saying parents have a right to determine their children's education.

"We are only voicing the opinions and aspirations of parents involved," Parents Action Group (Page) chairwoman Datin Azimah Rahim told reporters today at a press conference.

"We have interviewed parents from various states and many are in support of PPSMI. We hope the Education Ministry consider our plight," she added.

Azimah pointed out the Education Act 1996 states that parents have a right to determine their children's education.

"If the government does not feel this way, then remove the Act," she challenged. "We just want out rights."

Azimah said that Page has sent seven memorandums to the government, but none has received any response from the authorities.

"We have sent three memorandums to the Education Ministry addressed to (Education Minister) Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, three to the prime minister, and I personally handed him another one," she said.

"However, I was not given anything. There was no response. No calls, no letters. I am very disappointed the government says 'people first' but do not listen to the voice of parents," she added.

Page says that its observation of four batches of students who sat for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) had found an increase in performance when PPSMI was in effect.

"The results were surprising. There were more passes in rural schools for science (92.3 per cent), than urban schools (91 per cent). There was also a noticeable improvement in English, Bahasa Melayu and Mathematics," she said.

"Those against PPSMI have misunderstood its objective. The lingua franca for math and science now is English; it is not a policy to learn English."

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