

MIC happy with PPSMI decision, says public anger averted
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By Yow Hong Chieh

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 5 — The MIC thanked the government today for allowing those in the PPSMI system to continue learning mathematics and science in English, claiming the decision had helped avoid public anger.

Party president Datuk G. Palanivel, who had earlier urged the government to reconsider its decision to abolish PPSMI (teaching and learning of mathematics and science in English), said the government had “listened” to the views of students, parents and the public in making the decision yesterday.

Palanivel said English should not be neglected as it was the global lingua franca. — File pic “The move by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin is a move in the right direction to appease parents who would have otherwise been angered.

“It is also a move in the right direction for the sake of the affected students’ future,” he said in a short statement today.

Muhyiddin announced yesterday that students who have already been using PPSMI may continue with it until they complete their secondary education.

But the deputy prime minister stressed that this did not mean the government was making a U-turn in its decision to scrap the policy.

He explained the decision meant that students between Year Three and Form Five next year would be given the option to learn science and maths in Bahasa Malaysia, English or both until they complete their primary and secondary education.

But this year’s Year One students, the first batch to undergo MBMMBI (Upholding the Malay Language and Strengthening Command of English), would have to continue learning the two subjects in Bahasa Malaysia when they enter Year Two, he said.

MBMMBI was mooted in July 2009 to replace PPSMI and came into effect in January this year for Year One students. PPSMI was introduced in 2003 by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Palanivel also said today that while Bahasa Malaysia was “very important” for Malaysians, English should not be neglected as it was the global lingua franca.

“Proficiency in both Bahasa Malaysia and English is a must for our students to be more marketable,” he said.

He added that there needed to be an urgent revival in the teaching of English to ensure usage of the language did not decline in Malaysia.

Source:

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