

Parents to hold pro-PPSMI rally, want say in education review
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PETALING JAYA, Feb 15 — A group of parents arguing for the reinstatement of the teaching of Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI) today demanded Putrajaya heed their views before reviewing the education system.

Calling itself the Concerned Parents of Selangor (CPS), the group said it has sent over 12,000 petitions on the matter to the Prime Minister's Office during the last year, but has received no response till today.

"We want to be consulted on matters pertaining to educating our children. Hence, we parents from all over the country will gather in a peaceful Parents for PPSMI (P4P) rally on March 10, 2012 to indicate to the government the seriousness of our stand and opinion to seek full reinstatement of PPSMI for all," CPS organising chairman Shamsudin Hamid told reporters here.

The Najib administration has come under fire from pro-English lobby groups and opposition lawmakers for abolishing the policy in 2009 and introducing the MBMMBI (Upholding the Malay Language and Strengthening Command of English) in its place.

Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamed introduced PPSMI before he stepped down from office in 2003.

The government has also announced an education review panel to look into various concerns surrounding a revamp of parts of the school syllabus.

"Parents should be consulted as stakeholders in the education review panel... why review now? Why wasn't this set up before the changes announced?" Shamsudin said.

He then suggested the review panel be "upgraded" to become part of the government's "national agenda", like its other programmes such as the Government Transformation Programme (GTP).

Claims that PPSMI promoted the use of English over Bahasa Malaysia for students were a "narrow, nationalistic propaganda", he added.

"PPSMI is a policy to learn Science and Mathematics in English. MBMMBI is a policy to strengthen the mastery of Bahasa (Malaysia).

"Why learn in the two subjects in English? Because 90 per cent of reference material, research papers are all in English," said the CPS chairman.

He said the March 10 rally will include participation from the Parent Action Group for Education (PAGE), Malacca Action Group for Parents in Education (Magpie) and Herald of

Penang Education (HOPE).

An estimated 5,000 people are expected to attend the rally, which will be held at Dataran Petaling Jaya.

Shamsudin said that more rallies in other states would be held in the future if the government did not address the concerns of parents.

“The government should please remember: parents are voters, too. That’s all I’m saying.”

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