

**Government Ensures New Policies Won't Burden People - Muhyiddin
Bernama
November 4, 2011**

PUTRAJAYA, Nov 4 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet decision on the Teaching and Learning of Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI) proves that the government is responsive and willing to consider that new policies implemented will not be burdensome to the extent of affecting the students' performance in school.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said as such, students who were already pursuing studies under the PPSMI system should continue until they had completed.

"On the other hand, pupils who are just entering school will follow the new system, that is the Elevation of Bahasa Malaysia and Empowerment of the English Language (MBMMBI).

"So, this is a decision (on the PPSMI) that I have thought of, and I hope it will be well received by all strata of society," he told reporters after attending a meeting on the implementation of the PPSMI Soft Landing at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre, here Friday.

Muhyiddin, who is also the Education Minister, said a new circular would be issued as soon as possible because the original circular might not be clear and there could have been a confusion especially concerning Form One students next year who must use Bahasa Malaysia (BM) fully for both the subjects.

Concerning text books for the schools, he said they would be supplied in BM as well as in English, so it was up to the schools to choose.

"Examination papers for the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR), Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) and Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) will be prepared in both languages and students were free to choose whether to answer in BM or English," he said.

Asked whether the choice of teaching and learning in BM or English would be decided by the schools or parents, Muhyiddin said even now the schools were making their own decision.

"When we say the PPSMI is conducted in English and the schools find that it cannot be implemented, they used the BM and so the schools continue with it," he said, adding that the schools were wiser in this aspect.

Meanwhile, Muhyiddin said he had discussed the abolition of the PPSMI with the Prime Minister before Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak left for pilgrimage to Mecca.

He said the abolition of the PPSMI earlier was the decision of the Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister.

He said this when asked to comment on the statement by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad Friday that Najib could overrule the Deputy Prime Minister's decision on the abolition of the PPSMI.

Dr Mahathir had introduced the PPSMI in 2003.

On Dr Mahathir's statement that he hoped the rakyat would not get angry over the decision to abolish the PPSMI and to continue to support the Barisan Nasional (BN), Muhyiddin said: "I too hope the same."

The Deputy Prime Minister said parents did not have to worry because the children involved in the PPSMI were not affected and there was no delay following the transition in the use of the language and it would not pose problems to the people.

"I believe Tun (Mahathir) understands too. He is a staunch BN supporter. We make decisions not because we do it for fun, but I believe the people are ready to accept (the decision), especially the parents where more than 5.3 million students are involved in the present system," he added.

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