

Muhyiddin: Govt still studying option in teaching of Maths, Science
The Sun Daily
August 16, 2011
By Husna Yusop

PUTRAJAYA (Aug 16, 2011): The government is still studying the possibility of using two languages as the medium of instruction in the teaching of Science and Mathematics in schools, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

The matter needs to be studied thoroughly as the government has to look into the implementing it in the context of the current policy of "Upholding Bahasa Malaysia and Strengthening English (MBMMBI).

"We are still studying how we could offer this option to schools which are interested to implement it, without creating problems, because our priority and focus now is to strengthen the teaching of English.

"We have not decided on it because we have to see whether we can entertain the schools' request, what would be the implications, and other things," he said during a press conference after presenting prizes to winners of the National Science and Mathematics Creative Competition today.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said the matter was being looked into by a sub-committee at the ministry, chaired by director-general Datuk Abdul Ghafar Mahmud.

In 2009, the government decided to reverse the policy of teaching and learning Science and Mathematics in English (PPSMI) and revert to using Bahasa Malaysia in all schools beginning 2010.

However, in April this year, Muhyiddin said the government will study the possibility of using two mediums of instruction as some quarters were urging for the two subjects to continue being taught in English.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Abdul Razak has also said the government will study if it was possible for the subjects to be taught in English in selected schools without interrupting the teaching and learning process.

To a suggestion for non-exam subjects to be taught in English first, Muhyiddin said the government would study all views but it would not rush into making a decision.

"For example, if we want to teach Arts or Physical Education in English, do we have trained English teachers capable of teaching those subjects?"

"A suggestion may be good, but if we are not capable of doing it, it could not be done. Just like the PPSMI when we had problems because we don't have enough teachers capable of teaching Mathematics and Science in English," he said.