

No change, says Najib

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Maths, science will still be taught in English

JOHOR BARU: Mathematics and Science will continue to be taught in English in schools, said Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

The Deputy Prime Minister stressed on the importance of mastering English in the globalised world.

"If not, we will be *jaguh kampung*, and not a hero in the international arena," he said in his speech at the closing of the Johor Umno Convention here yesterday.

He was responding to a call by the state Umno on Sunday for the Government to stop the teaching of both subjects in English.

"When the time comes, we will decide if it (the use of

English in teaching Mathematics and Science) is appropriate or not," Najib said.

"Now, we provide some flexibility by using Bahasa Melayu and English in teaching Science and Maths, so lessons are not entirely in English."

Najib added that after the UPSR in 2008, a thorough study would be done on whether to continue or to fine-tune the approach.

"The country's leadership will take into consideration Johor's concern on this issue then," he said.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein concurred, saying it was not practical to change the policy

midway through its implementation.

"We started in 2003, and we do not have to make a decision until 2008," he said, adding that studies on the impact of the use of English were being carried out.

"We are studying different modalities. Maybe, we will resort to just teaching the two subjects in English in secondary school, or focus on strengthening English language lessons. We will study this thoroughly and make a decision later," he told *The Star*.

He said they might fine-tune the policy later, but added that no changes would be made until after 2008.