

'Adopt dual language approach in teaching Maths and Science'

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PUTRAJAYA: Schools are encouraged to adopt a dual language approach in teaching Mathematics and Science to allow for a "soft landing" from 2012 when Bahasa Malaysia, Mandarin or Tamil are used as the teaching language in Year One and

Form One.

This approach, which allows the use of English or BM, will be carried out in stages beginning from 2012, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said. Muhyiddin, who is the education minister, said many people were still unclear about this mechanism with regard to the teaching of

Science and Mathematics in BM.

"We have to adopt a soft-landing approach so that the transition from the old policy to the new one can take place smoothly and does not shock our children in their learning process."

The government recently decided to revert to the use of BM in the teaching of Science

and Mathematics, instead of using English (a policy called PPSMI).

PPSMI was mooted by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 2003.

The scrapping of PPSMI will start in stages, beginning in 2012 for Year One, Year Four, Form One and Form Four. Form Six and matriculation students are not involved.

As for the soft-landing mechanism to implement the teaching of Science and Mathematics in BM, Muhyiddin said the two subjects would be taught both in English and BM in national schools and in mother tongue languages in vernacular schools from next year.

"Dual languages will be implemented in the teaching

and learning of the two subjects for Year Four in 2012, 2013 and 2014, Year Five in 2013, 2014 and 2015, and Year Six in 2014, 2015 and 2016."

He said students sitting Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) would be provided options to answer

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