RM5b allocated for teaching of Maths, Science

Despite the uncertainty on whether the move to use English in the teaching of Mathematics and Science will go ahead in all schools next year, a generous RM5bil has been allocated for the purpose.

"The allocation is on the assumption that we are going ahead as initially announced," said Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

When asked if the RM5bil, to be spread over seven-years (2002-2008), would also cover its costs for implementation in national-type schools, he said: "Yes, that is the strategy adopted in the Budget."

He said a decision would be made "very soon".

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a large portion of the allocation would go towards training of teachers, providing a launching grant for schools as well as teaching and educational aids, and basic facilities and physical infrastructure.

"To ensure the effective implementation of the project, teachers will be supplied with computer notebooks, LCD projectors and related equipment. For this purpose, RM578.7mil will be spent this year and next year," he added.

Educationists and the unions laud the decision to allocate the big sum to implement the move, saying it was proof of the Government's seriousness to improve proficiency in English.

"It is a huge allocation and should be sufficient for all aspects of the implementation for the entire seven-year period," said former Education director-general of Education Datuk Abdul Shukor Abdullah.

NUTP secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the "massive allocation" showed that the Government was serious about the issue. Also acknowledging the benefits was Federation of Malay Students Associations of Malaysia (GPMS) president Datuk Suhaizam Ibrahim who observed that the allocation would ensure the successful implementation of the project.