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# Time for English subject to increase by 70 pct: DPM

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The time allotted to the teaching and learning of English in schools will be increased by 70 per cent starting 2012 in the efforts to strengthen the command of the language among students, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said.

He said that at the moment, the time allotted to the subject could only be increased by a maximum of 14 per cent.

Muhyiddin, who is Education Minister, said the increase in the number of hours would allow for the introduction of new elements in the teaching and learning of English such as

English literature and more emphasis on grammar.

The ministry would also appoint more skilled teachers, review the types of textbooks used and set up English laboratories, he told a news conference after launching the ministry's 1Malaysia programme at the Titiwangsa Lake Garden,

**We want to make English a main subject along with the Malay language.**

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, Deputy Prime Minister

here yesterday.

“We want to make English a main subject along with the Malay language,” he said.

He also said that the government would task the Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and the Malaysian National Institute of Translation to translate science, technology and mathematics terminologies into the Malay language.

Asked on an online poll which saw some 80 per cent pollsters voting against the government's decision to revert the teaching and learning of English to the Malay language, Muhyiddin said the decision was final and that it was done after a

nationwide survey.

The online poll is published on a blog run by former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad at <http://chedet.co.cc/chedetblog/>.

“We respect their views but we have made our decision,” he said.

Earlier in his speech, Muhyiddin said the 1Malaysia programme was aimed at strengthening the spirit of unity among students.

“I want them not only to understand the concept but also appreciate the spirit of unity among the various races,” he said. — Bernama



**UNITY:** Muhyiddin (second left) being introduced to pupils taking part in the 1Malaysia programme at the Titiwangsa Lake Garden. — Bernama photo