

## **New curriculum next year to upgrade English education**

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KUALA LUMPUR July 17 — The Education Ministry will introduce a new curriculum to improve English education at the primary and secondary level by January next year, Director-General of Education Tan Sri Alimuddin Mohd Dom said today.

He said the new curriculum would combine various existing teaching methods with additional ones such as music, literature, choral speaking and such. “The ministry will discuss the matter in detail after we have sat down with the non-governmental organisations, teachers’ unions and English language experts so that we can map out the concept paper.

“We estimate that it would take four to five months to complete the new curriculum,” he told reporters after launching a seminar to upgrade the status of the teaching profession, here.

The two-day seminar, organised by the Education Ministry and the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP), is being held for the first time to discuss the new direction of the teaching profession.

Alimuddin said the decision to introduce the new curriculum was made following the government’s decision to revert from English to Malay in the teaching of mathematics and science effective 2012.

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, in making the announcement, had also called for a strategy to upgrade the status of the Malay language while improving the teaching and learning of English.

Alimuddin said that though some parents had urged that the policy be retained at the secondary level, the government thought it was best to abolish it once and for all.

He said the ministry was also in the midst of setting up five teacher training institutes in states like Terengganu, Sabah and Sarawak to prepare teachers to teach in the English language.

Local and international experts of the English language would also be invited soon to give their input in shaping the new curriculum, he said.

The Cabinet on July 8 decided that the Malay language, and not English, would be used to teach science and mathematics at national schools from 2012 and the respective vernacular languages to teach these subjects in Chinese and Tamil schools.

— BERNAMA