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EDUCATION

Enrich your language power

THE latest announcement by Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin to make English a must-pass subject in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examination is a step in the right direction.

This is not the first time such a proposal was brought to light. Last September, a similar statement was made by Muhyiddin.

While we are aware that the ministry is looking into ways and methods of improving the teaching of English, we must admit we have not made much headway.

The decline in English proficiency since the 1970s is a matter that must be addressed with urgency.

It's about time we made English a compulsory or must-pass subject in schools in SPM so that our students will concentrate on the learning of the language. To achieve this aim, the ministry must be fully prepared before its implementation.

Measures to improve English teaching facilities and ensure that



English lessons can be made more creative to make the students more interested in learning the language.

the English language teachers have the right tools to teach are needed.

Parents and students have welcomed the move as there is a dire need to improve the command of the language among students as this will benefit them in the future.

There is no doubt that the shortage of trained English language teachers is one of the reasons for

the students' poor grasp of the language.

We did have many good English-trained teachers before but many of them have retired. It, therefore, makes sense that these retired English-trained teachers be brought back if they are prepared to work.

Besides hiring retirees, the government should also train new teachers.

Teachers for the rural areas need

a different kind of training to help them tackle the problems faced by the students there.

The teaching of English in schools should be made more creative to make the students more interested in learning the language.

The poor command of the language among our students is a matter of utmost concern as it has serious implications not only for our country's competitiveness but also on the future employability of our graduates.

While we are proud of our national language, the English language, as the international lingua franca, should not be sidelined.

The government could re-introduce the English-medium school system to arrest the decline in the standard of English.

Mastering English is about rejuvenating the nation. It is about preparing ourselves individually and collectively as a nation to find our place in the global economy.

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