

PM: Medium of N-type schools will not be changed

(P)

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave an assurance that the medium of instruction in national type Chinese primary schools will not be changed.

"The implementation of the 3R syllabus will not affect the medium of instruction now in use in national type primary schools," he said at a Press conference after chairing the UMNO Supreme Council meeting in Kuala Lumpur.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said the Government is not trying nor does it have any intention to change the medium of instruction in these schools.

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However, he added, the Government requires an enabling act so that applications by individual schools to change the medium of instruction to be changed can be acted upon constitutionally.

"Since independence, only one school has applied for its medium of instruction to be changed. The application was from a Tamil school in Kuantan asking for conversion to national school.

The Prime Minister said all the allegations with regard to the government motive in the implementation of the 3R syllabus were unfounded.

"They are made by certain groups of people who are out to raise feelings of dissatisfaction among the Chinese," he said.

The Government views seriously the activities of these "prominent people" and will not hesitate to take action against them if their activities are considered detrimental to the unity of the nation, he said.

"The Government knows who these people are and is watching their activities closely," he said.

When asked to identify the "people", he refused, saying: "I would like to leave them to worry about it."