

PM to Chinese: Govt needs Koh for feedback

KUCHING, Wed. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that Chinese educationists would lose out if voters in the Tanjung parliamentary constituency vote in DAP secretary-general Lim Kit Siang instead of Barisan Nasional's Dr Koh Tsu Koon.

The Premier said Dr Koh's presence in the Government "is absolutely essential for us to get the feedback and views from the Chinese educationists."

He said the Government depended on Chinese educationists like Dr Koh and Gerakan secretary-general Kerk Choo Ting for feedback.

"If Tsu Koon is out and Kit Siang is in, the Chinese educationists will be represented by a man who keeps shouting and maybe curses us. And that kind of thing is not going to get a positive reaction (from the Government)," he told reporters at the end of a one-day visit to Sarawak this morning.

Dr Mahathir said it would be to the advantage of Chinese educationists and voters in Tanjung, in particular, to have Dr Koh in

Parliament.

"If Tsu Koon is elected, he will have the ear of the Government and can influence the thinking and the action (of the Government).

"It is really a choice for the Chinese community in Tanjung and I think they will be making a big mistake to tender to Kit Siang's ego.

"If he wants to have a voice in Parliament, he could very easily win if he stood in his old constituency (Kota Melaka). Just because he doesn't like Koh Tsu Koon doesn't mean he should try to unseat Tsu Koon.

"I don't think Koh Tsu Koon will be very effective as a Senator. Senators don't add very much... we don't listen very much (to them) because they are nobody. They can give their opinion in the Senate and that's about all," he said.

He was referring to DAP claims that even if Dr Koh lost, he could be appointed a Senator while a loss for Mr Lim would mean that he would be deprived of a say in Parliament.