

Lim welcomes PM's statement

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PETALING JAYA: DAP national chairman Lim Kit Siang welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement on Monday that the effectiveness of national schools will not be affected by the increase of Malay pupils attending Chinese schools.

He said the statement was timely as there were currently more than 60,000 Malay students in Chinese schools and this reflected the changing character of the Chinese school system that was able to cater to the educational needs of all children regardless of their race.

Lim said the current controversy over the racial streaming of stu-

dents had been twisted by certain quarters to re-activate the issue of vernacular schools.

"This is most unfortunate, for this issue has nothing whatsoever to do with the pernicious practice of segregating students according to race in schools, which violates the national and educational objective of creating a united Malaysian people," Lim said in a statement yesterday.

He said Dr Mahathir's appreciation and recognition of the contribution of primary and independent secondary Chinese schools towards nation building should not be confined during general elections and by-elections only.