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DAP welcomes PM's remarks on unity

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The DAP today welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assertion that the 60,000 Malay pupils in national-type Chinese primary schools will not hamper national unity.

Secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said he agreed with Dr Mahathir's statement that these students (in such schools) enhanced understanding between Malay and Chinese pupils.

Kerk, who is Member of Parliament for Kota Melaka, said the Prime Minister's remarks served as a strong rebuttal to those calling for a single-lingual school system.

Kerk urged all Malaysians to be on guard against the promotion of such views.

Dr Mahathir had stated on Monday that racial integration would not be affected by the fact that many Malay pupils were studying in national-type Chinese primary schools.

DAP National Chairman Lim Kit Siang said the Government's recognition and appreciation of the nation-building role of Chinese primary schools should be an integral part of Government policy and allocations.

Such recognition should be given at all times and not just before an important by-election.

Lim cited examples of Dr Mahathir and other Barisan Nasional leaders who had praised the contributions of Chinese primary schools just before the November 1999 general elections.

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