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Support for POL classes

Sajahan Waheed; Azura Abas

KUCHING, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government has been supporting and giving assistance to Chinese and Tamil schools in the teaching of their pupils own language (POL).

The Prime Minister said in some countries, the usage of Chinese and Tamil languages in schools was not allowed.

"But this is not the case in Malaysia. It shows that we are being fair to all races," he said in his address to teachers, pupils and their parents at the Chung Hua Middle School No 4, here, this afternoon.

However, he said, in such schools the national language was not sidelined.

Also present was the Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud.

Dr Mahathir said in Malaysia the people lived harmoniously irrespective of their background and religion.

"This is because of the Barisan Nasional Government's policy where all the races are treated equally and are being represented at the Federal and State levels," he said.

"We spend a substantial amount to develop the country, but there are certain quarters who make all kinds of accusations against us.

"If the claims are true that we are corrupted and have misused the country's funds, then we may not enjoy the type of development that we have now," he said.

He said Malaysia's economy was better off compared to other neighbouring countries during the recent economic slowdown.

Dr Mahathir also announced that the Sarawak Government would give a piece of land for the school's new building as the present building was located on rented land.