

Ling keeps mum over English issue

by Husna Yusop
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

(SUN 22 AUG 2007

Tuesday night.

"We had dinner last night (Tuesday). We were very fortunate since Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad very kindly gave us an audience this morning," he said.

"We had a very fruitful exchange of ideas. Full stop."

The others present at the meeting with Mahathir were Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, Sarawak United People's Party president Tan Sri Dr George Chan, and Sabah Progressive Party president Datuk Yong Teck Lee.

Pushed further, Ling said: "It was a good discussion. Full stop."

He said the dinner meeting was not brought to the attention of the cabinet yesterday as "it was only a dinner".

On the outcome of the meeting of all the 15 Barisan Nasional component parties chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on Tuesday, Ling said it is "a matter between Abdullah and Mahathir".

PUTRAJAYA: MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik has remained tight-lipped about the latest development in the controversy over the use of English to teach mathematics and science in all schools beginning next year.

Ling denied a report by a Malay daily yesterday that he was instructed to play a more serious role to explain the issue to the Chinese community

"There is no such thing," he said, adding that he has always wanted such an issue to be dealt with without public glare or publicity

"Then you can remove all the emotions and politics and only tackle the academic, educational and intellectual issue," he said.

Speaking to reporters at his ministry, Ling refused to elaborate on the Chinese-based parties' dinner meeting held on