

There are Chinese who want English'

SUN 24 AUG 2002

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there are those among the Chinese community who want their children to master the English language but choose to remain silent on the matter.

Referring to a news report yesterday that thousands of Malaysian Chinese are enrolled in Singaporean schools which use English as the medium of instruction, Mahathir said this shows

that they agree with the government's move to teach science and mathematics in English.

"However, the ones who agree do not say anything," he told a media conference after opening the Malaysian Felda Generation Assembly and Symposium.

The news report quoted the Federation of Peninsula Malay Students (GPMS) president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim as saying that the Malaysian

students enrolled themselves at secondary schools in Singapore for the sake of learning English.

The government has announced its intention to use English in the teaching of science and mathematics in schools beginning next year.

However, the move has raised concern among certain segments of society, including Chinese educational groups and political parties.