

Collective decision on using English

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today any decision on the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English will be made collectively by the Cabinet.

"Of course I will discuss with the Cabinet. This is not my business, this is the business of the Education Ministry. How could I overrule them. I'll have to ask them," he said when asked whether the Cabinet would be consulted on the matter.

Dr Mahathir, who had opened a conference on taxation at the Palace

of the Golden Horses, said the Government was still studying views of at which level English should be used to teach the two subjects.

He spoke at a Press conference after the opening.

Some wanted it to begin from secondary level but there were also others who suggested it should start from Standard Four.

"So, we're still considering, we haven't decided," said Dr Mahathir on his meeting yesterday with the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCCIM) and seven major federations of clans and associations on the move to

teach the two subjects in English starting from next year.

The Prime Minister said it appeared that the majority of the Malays and the Chinese, including language experts, had accepted the need to improve the standard of English.

On whether opposition to the move would derail preparations being made, Dr Mahathir said that whatever the decision, facilities would have to be provided.

"As everyone has agreed on the need to improve the standard of English, it means facilities and equipment like computers are needed," he said.