

BN meeting again over decision on English

STAR 25 OCT 2002

ALOR STAR: Another Barisan Nasional supreme council meeting will be called by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to accept the report from Chinese-based component parties over the usage of English to teach Science and Mathematics in Chinese primary schools.

Dr Mahathir said he could not personally make a decision over the matter when asked to comment on a press report stating that Chinese-based parties in the Barisan would propose that the two subjects be taught in English outside school hours for Chinese primary schools.

"I cannot give a reply here. I want to wait until the decision (by the Chinese-based parties) is submitted," Dr Mahathir told a press conference after chairing the Kubang Pasu Umno division meeting here yesterday.

He said there were Chinese parties, such as

Sabah's Liberal Democratic Party, which agreed with the Government on the matter.

"The LDP clearly stated their support and there are others who also support (the move to teach the two subjects in English).

"There are Chinese schools which are already teaching Science and Mathematics in English. We cannot force them to go backwards," he said.

It was reported yesterday that Chinese primary schools will hold extra English classes on Science and Mathematics under a move to teach both subjects in English from Primary One.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had said the extra classes outside school hours would strengthen the pupils' English while the medium of instruction for the two subjects in the main timetable would remain in Chinese.