

Barisan supreme council to meet over English issue

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Barisan Nasional supreme council will meet on Thursday to further discuss the use of English to teach Mathematics and Science in Chinese primary schools.

Sources said the Chinese parties - MCA, Gerakan, Sarawak United People's Party and Sabah Progressive Party - had come up with a "win-win formula" after consulting education experts and heads of schools after two meetings on Wednesday and Friday.

The Barisan gave its Chinese-based component parties a week to fine-tune a proposal to teach both subjects in Chinese and English with the mother tongue remaining as the medium of instruction.

Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who chaired the council meeting here last Tuesday, had said the policy and spirit on using English to teach the two subjects would be the same for all primary schools while the methods adopted by Chinese schools might vary.

The Prime Minister said all the

other primary schools would start using English for both subjects from next year while the Chinese-based parties would come back with a proposal for the Chinese schools within a week.

The Government had in June announced the use of English to teach Mathematics and Science from next year, beginning Year One, Secondary One and Lower Six.

A Barisan leader, when contacted declined to confirm on any method discussed or reveal details of their meetings and urged the media not to speculate.

He said the Barisan, as shown in its track record, would be able to find a solution acceptable to all, adding that the proposed method to be presented to the council would be in line with the same policy and spirit for all schools as stated by Dr Mahathir.

The Chinese parties had since the June announcement, met among themselves, consulted education experts and gathered feedback from the community because education has always been a top priority and concern.