

Counter-proposal for BN

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PUTRAJAYA: The four Chinese-based parties in the Barisan Nasional (BN) which oppose teaching science and mathematics in English in Chinese schools have come up with a counter-proposal.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said the counter-proposal will be submitted to the BN Supreme Council, which is expected to meet on Thursday.

"We took one week to fine-tune the proposal. We met a few times including with educationists and experts," he said after presenting excellent service awards to Transport Ministry staff.

Ling, who is transport minister, said it is now up to the BN to make a final decision.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also BN chairman, proposed in August

that the two subjects be taught in English in all schools so as to improve the standard of English.

However, the implementation of the proposal was objected to by the MCA, Gerakan, Sarawak United People's Party and the Sabah Progressive Party due to fear that the mother tongue would have a reduced role in Chinese schools.

According to the initial proposal, the subjects will be taught in English from Year One, Form One and Lower Six.

Pressed for details on the counter-proposal, Ling said: "Let the BN discuss and decide on it. I don't want to release it to the media but to the BN."

Asked if the counter-proposal would burden pupils, he said: "They will be able to (study), given the right tools."