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Bangsa Malaysia nothing but a pipe dream

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AFTER Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad voiced his concern about the deteriorating standard of English among Malaysians, especially Malays, there were many who had a field day lambasting Umno and Malays of narrow-minded nationalism for not supporting the idea of bringing back English-medium schools.

Now that we see the nationalism of Malays overshadowed by the chauvinism of the Chinese, the silence from advocates of the English-medium schools is deafening.

Self-preservation is a human instinct and the knee-jerk reaction of Umno and Malays was just that, a natural human reaction. Grudgingly or otherwise, Malays had to accept the Government's decision on the use of English in Mathematics and Science. The Chinese, on the other hand, refuse to adopt the move for fear of changing the character of Chinese schools.

What I find distasteful is not so much the hypocrisy but the political blackmail. An MCA bigwig said after the recent MCA convention that the party had to adopt a resolution, against the introduction of English for Mathematics and Science in Chinese schools, since the Chinese have appointed it as the custodian of Chinese education and to do otherwise would make it difficult for the party to deliver Chinese votes during the next general elections.

As we approach our 45th National Day, we may have to resign ourselves to the fact that we are all chauvinists and, without a single national school system or at least acceptance of Sekolah Wawasan concept, Bangsa Malaysia