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Chinese schools that teach subjects in English

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - A small percentage of the 60 Chinese secondary schools nationwide teach Science and Mathematics subjects in English, with all nine such schools in Sabah doing so.

United Chinese Schools Committees Association of Malaysia president Quek Suan Hiang said the Chung Hwa High School here and the Foon Yew High School in Johor Baru taught several subjects including Science and Mathematics in English.

"The main medium of instruction in all 60 independent Chinese secondary schools in the country is Mandarin although there is a small number of schools teaching Science and Mathematics in English," he said when commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that some Chinese schools were already teaching the two subjects in English.

Quek said the students in these classes were usually the ones teachers felt could cope with learning subjects such as Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Commerce in English.

"These students are the ones with a good knowledge of both Mandarin and English, and this is why they are taught in English," he said.

Sabah Chinese Schools Management Association chairman Datuk Daniel Chu said some of the schools had been teaching Mathematics and some Science subjects in English for years.

The schools are Tsung Tsin Kota Kinabalu, Kian Kok Kota Kinabalu, Yuan Yu Sandakan, Pei Tsin Kudat, Pei Tsin Tenom, Beaufort Middle School, Lahad Datu Middle School, Tawau Chinese Independent School and Papar Chinese Independent School.

Independent schools are schools that do not receive funding from the Government.

He said students in these schools sat for a major examination after six years of schooling called the Unified Examination which is in Mandarin.

Students who can cope can choose to take the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination after five years of secondary schooling. They are taught lessons in the national language after normal school hours.

However, all Chinese primary schools use only Chinese as the medium of instruction and not English.