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SUPP-English

CHINESE-BASED PARTIES TO ENSURE CHINESE PRIMARY SCHOOLS NOT LEFT BEHIND

KUCHING, Oct 25 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) and the other Chinese-based Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties will ensure that Chinese primary schools are not left behind when a decision is made to teach science and mathematic in English from next year.

SUPP president Tan Sri Dr George Chan said today the four Chinese-based parties had been given a week to come up with modifications or proposals on how to implement the move in Chinese primary schools.

"We will sit down together and make it such a way that we can make sure Chinese schools will not be left behind in the educational system," he said after launching the sale of 5,000 copies of the 2003 calendar, a fund-raising project initiated by the Red Crescent Society, Stampin Chapter at his office in Petra Jaya here.

Dr Chan, who is the Deputy Chief Minister and Sarawak Red Crescent chairman, said the Chinese-based parties had already made a stand on the matter.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said that he would call for another BN supreme council meeting soon to discuss the proposals from the Chinese-based parties.

On Wednesday, leaders of the Chinese-based parties, including the SUPP met in Kuala Lumpur to find a mechanism that would preserve the identity of Chinese primary schools apart from ensuring that their pupils would have no problems with the two subjects when they go to secondary schools.

Apart from the SUPP, the three other Chinese-based BN component parties are the MCA, Gerakan and Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) while Sabah's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) supported the move to teach the two subjects in English.

Following the meeting, MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said they would propose that the two subjects be taught outside normal schooling hours for Chinese primary schools.

However, the use of Mandarin to teach the subjects during the normal time-table should be retained, he said.

On Tuesday, the BN reached a consensus for all primary schools to teach science and mathematics in English next year.

-- BERNAMA  
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