

18/08/2002

DPM confident PM will find solution

Noor Adzman Baharuddin; Marina Emmanuel

PENANG, Sat. - Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi is confident Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will find a solution to concerns relating to the proposed use of English for the teaching of Mathematics and Science in national-type schools.

"I believe the Chinese-based parties in the Barisan Nasional will meet Dr Mahathir over the matter soon," the Deputy Prime Minister said today.

"I am also confident our Prime Minister will help find a solution to these concerns."

Abdullah said this when asked to comment on the failure of the Chinese-based BN component parties to reach a consensus on the proposal after they met in Putrajaya yesterday.

The meeting, at the Transport Ministry, was attended by representatives from MCA, Gerakan, Sabah Progressive Party and Sarawak United People's Party.

Acting as spokesman for the four component parties, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said they wanted to complete studies on "several things" besides looking at multi-ethnic societies in other parts of the world.

Abdullah was here to launch the "Wholesome Families, the Pulse of the Nation" forum at Universiti Sains Malaysia here today.

Abdullah described the aims of the proposal as good but said its implementation could cause some concern.

"Issues on education and language can evoke a lot of emotion. I am worried there may be some groups or individuals who will exploit the situation.

"I hope there will be no attempt to instigate any community over the proposal as this will be an offence under the Sedition Act," he said.

Abdullah was also confident the parties would support the Government's stand on the proposal.

"Dr Mahathir has stressed the need for all BN component parties to make a stand on the proposal.