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Mastering English: A positive move forward

MUAR, Sun. - Many young Malaysians fail to get jobs because they are unable to communicate well in English, MCA vice-president Datuk Chua Jui Meng said.

He said the Government's emphasis on English was to help students master the language which would eventually increase their marketability.

"That's why we support Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to master English as a bold and positive step forward for the country," he said at the 90th anniversary dinner of the Chung Hwa High School here last night.

Chua, who is Health Minister and MCA national English-speaking bureau chief, said the use of Bahasa Malaysia by the other non-Malay races needed to be constantly improved too as it was the language used by the different races in the country.

He said that even in China now there is more interest to learn English and some Malaysian entrepreneurs had already capitalised on the need for English teachers by setting up language schools in various parts of the country.

Chua said with the huge amount of foreign direct investment into China and the country's entry into the World Trade Organisation, it realised the importance of mastering the international lingua franca.