

26/08/2002

MCA to hold closed-door talks on issue

KOTA TINGGI, Sun. - The MCA is adopting a "closed-door" policy in discussions with members on the teaching of Mathematics and Science in English.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said at the same time the party wanted to ensure that the issue was properly explained to the people and not blown out of proportion.

"We prefer it to be discussed out of the glare of the Press so that it would not become an emotional matter and be politicised.

"We will talk to our members behind closed doors so that they can give a proper explanation to the people.

"Our discussions (within MCA) will be aimed at providing an explanation. It is not a matter of whether the discussions will be fruitful or not," he said after meeting with Johor Wanita MCA committee members at the Kota Tinggi MCA head office today.

In Malacca, Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik said the party was confident Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would come up with a solution to the controversy.

"Despite what has been said about Gerakan, the party fully supports the idea to improve the standard of English, Mathematics and Science in our schools," he told reporters after opening the State Gerakan Representative Assembly at its headquarters in Taman Melaka Raya.

In Tasek Gelugor, Indian Progressive Front president Datuk M.G. Pandithan said the party supported the Government's decision to teach Mathematics and Science in English.

He said the party made the decision at a recent central working committee meeting.

"IPF always welcomes any decision taken by the Barisan Nasional. We also support the idea of teaching Mathematics and Science in English in Tamil schools," he said after attending a seminar yesterday.