

22/08/2002

Pas: Umno no longer has control over BN parties

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Pas claimed today that Umno no longer has control over Barisan Nasional component parties, following misunderstandings between party leaders on the Government's move to use English to teach Mathematics and Science in schools.

Pas information chief, Azizan Abdul Razak, also alleged that this showed that the credibility of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir as BN leader has weakened.

"It is clear that not only is Gerakan against the proposal, but other Chinese-based parties in the ruling coalition too are not together in this.

"The showdown between Gerakan president, Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik, and People's Progressive Party president, Datuk M. Kayveas, is proof that Dr Mahathir is losing the respect of component party leaders," he said.

Azizan said it was time that Dr Mahathir and Umno, the party he leads, realised that the people in general did not want the two subjects to be taught in English although all accepted the fact that proficiency in English was an important asset.

"Pas is not denying that English should be promoted and that its proficiency among Malaysians needs to be further improved.

"But there is no need to revert to making English as the medium of instruction for Mathematics and Science as the present system is already effective," he said.