

Mahathir: People free to enrol in national-type Chinese schools

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TUN Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the government will not stop anyone from going to national-type Chinese primary schools.

But to uphold the national identity, the government hopes to see the majority of the people send their children to national schools, **Sin Chew Daily** reported yesterday.

The former prime minister said in Malaysia, the peo-

ple are absolutely free to choose the types of schools for their children but the National Education Policy stipulates that all schools should teach Bahasa Malaysia.

"If too many people study in Chinese primary schools, Chinese primary schools naturally become the national schools. This is not what the government wishes, we must have our identity," he said.

Mahathir said this to a question at a dialogue with participants to the **Language and Nationhood: Confronting New Realities** conference in Putrajaya after closing the conference on Thursday.

He also urged the rakyat to master English in order to gain rapid access to new scientific and mathematical knowledge.

This, he said, is one of the challenges of globalisation.