

15/02/2003

MCA: Seek views of BN parties on school revamp

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - MCA wants the committee looking into the restructuring of national schools to seek the views of Barisan Nasional component parties before finalising its blueprint.

Party education bureau head Datuk Seri Dr Ting Chew Peh said MCA was supportive of any change that could promote racial harmony in the country.

"I just hope that BN component parties are given a chance to provide input," said Ting who is also MCA secretary-general.

Ting was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's announcement that former Education Ministry director-general Tan Sri Murad Mohd Noor had been tasked with restructuring national schools to make it more attractive to all races.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Umno president, had said that many non-Malays now find national schools too Malay and too Islamic, resulting in many parents sending their children to national-type schools.

The Malays, on the other hand, find national schools less Islamic, and this made them turn to People's Religious Schools.

Asked whether making national schools more attractive would result in parents shunning national-type schools, he said there was no alternative to vernacular schools.