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# Chinese choice won't affect unity, says PM

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Press Digest

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**PRIME** Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi does not deem the preference of Chinese parents to send their children to Chinese schools a problem.

It will not affect national unity even if 90% of them

send their children to national-type Chinese primary schools, he said.

Abdullah said there are only 1,004 Chinese primary schools, which is a small figure compared with the number of national schools.

“Although 90% of

Chinese parents send their children to Chinese primary schools, I don't see how it will affect national unity,” he was quoted by the Chinese press as saying.

Abdullah said this in response to a remark that only 10% of Chinese

parents send their children to national schools, after chairing an Umno supreme council meeting in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.

The prime minister's view was shared by Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin

Hussein, who also said it would not be a hindrance to national unity if 90% of Chinese pupils were to opt for Chinese primary schools.

He said that in a borderless global village, having multiple streams of schools is in fact an advantage.

“Even if there are more types of schools, we can be

united,” Hishammuddin said after watching the participation of education officials, teachers and students in a rehearsal for the National Day parade in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday.