

Blueprint for Chinese education in Sarawak

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MIRI: Sarawak's major Chinese-based political party will draw up a blueprint for the long-term development of Chinese education in the state.

The blueprint, said Sarawak United People's Party (SUPP) president Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam, will chart the way forward for the 222 Chinese schools in the state over the next 10 years.

He said the state and federal governments would help draw up the plan, and that SUPP secretary-general Datuk Sim Kheng Hui was preparing the draft.

Dr Chan, a Deputy Chief Minister, added that the blueprint would spell out measures to preserve Chinese education in Sarawak and to ensure that it prospered continuously.

"At present, Chinese education in Sarawak survives on ad hoc development policies, without any proper or long-term structured plan," he told reporters after meeting the board of directors of the newly-built RM4mil SJK (C) Chung Hua Tudan School here yesterday.

"For it to thrive and prosper, we must have a clear vision of what we want to achieve in the short-term and in the long run."

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Currently, Chinese schools are maintained largely through donations and funds raised by the community.

The state and federal governments also provide development grants for primary schools, and the Education Ministry pays the salaries of the teaching staff.

Dr Chan said all communities, and not just the Chinese, would benefit from the blueprint.

For example, he said, 49% of the student enrolment at SJK (C) Chung Hua Tudan are bumiputra students of various ethnic groups.