

## **CHONG: TOO MANY SCHOOLS WANT TO BE PART OF DLP**

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PETALING JAYA: There is an overwhelming response from schools wanting to be a part of the Dual Language Programme (DLP), said Deputy Education Minister Chong Sin Woon.

He said the request came from Chinese schools as well.

However, Chong was quick to admit that there were some objections.

“I have to be honest. We have objections from non-governmental organisations, both Chinese and Malay educationists,” he told reporters after opening the Independent Entrepreneurs Service Convention yesterday.

During the tabling of Budget 2016 last month, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that DLP would be offered in 300 schools.

These schools will have the option to teach Science, Mathematics, Information Technology and Communication, and Design and Technology in English or Bahasa Malaysia. Schools wanting to be part of the DLP are welcome to submit their applications, even if they are not part of the 300 schools chosen for the pilot project.

Chong said schools could apply for DLP but they should comply with the requirements set by the ministry, which include having proper resources, teachers who can teach in English and Bahasa Malaysia, as well as parents who are supportive of the programme.

“We do not pick or force any schools to have that programme. Some schools may choose to use English in one or two classes out of the 10 classes they have, while the rest can be in Bahasa Malaysia or in their mother tongue.”

He said the ministry would monitor the progress of the DLP and see how it could be improved from time to time.

Asked about a decision by Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) not to recognise the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC) despite the state government’s decision to recognise it, Chong said it was premature to give up at this point.

He added that the ministry had a special programme in place for UEC students since 2012, where they could apply to become teachers in government schools.