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#### NUTP backs Vision School concept

MALACCA, Wed. - The National Union of the Teaching Profession today expressed its support for the Government's Vision School or Sekolah Wawasan concept.

In describing the move as wise and timely, its president Abu Bakar Shawkat Ali said although the concept should have been introduced long time ago, "it is better late than never".

The move would also help reduce cases of under-enrolment faced by some schools, particularly those in urban areas.

Abu Bakar said by sharing facilities like playing field, assembly hall, canteen and curriculum, relations among the different races could be further strengthened.

"We must start them young and this is one way, the NUTP feels, will go down a long way in fostering goodwill and ties among the various ethnic groups in the country in the long run.

"The Government should be praised for coming up with this wise and timely move."

Explaining the need for more vision schools in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Barisan Nasional chairman, had said the BN members were worried that certain quarters were sowing hatred in the kindergartens, schools and universities.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that this is one way of forging closer relations (between the various races.)

Under the concept, two vernacular primary schools and a national school are combined under a complex, with the pupils sharing the same curriculum and facilities.

There are 10 such schools in the country. Abu Bakar said the NUTP hoped that no quarters would question the implementation of the concept.

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