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Aziz-Vision

OPPOSERS OF VISION SCHOOL ARE HEADING TOWARDS RACIAL DISINTEGRATION

KUANTAN, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- The opposition by certain people to the Vision School concept could lead to racial disintegration, said Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin today.

He said the government's intention in implementing the Vision School concept was to curb racial sentiments.

"If we don't start now, the Chinese and the Chinese interest, the Malays and the Malay interest and the Indians and the Indian interest, eventually no one can look another straight in the eyes.

"Actually, they (who oppose the Vision School concept) are heading towards racial disintegration, and if this happens all will suffer," he said at a news conference after presenting excellent service awards to 1,064 teachers and staff of the Pahang Education Department, here.

He was asked to comment on the opposition to the Vision School concept by Chinese educationist movements Dong Jiao Zhong and Hua Zong which feared that it would erode the language and culture of the Chinese community.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had yesterday expressed disappointment to the groups' opposition to the Vision School concept, saying that the education system in China could not be used in Malaysia.

Abdul Aziz said the Vision School concept was not to rob the Chinese and Indian communities of their rights as their schools would continue to use their respective languages as medium of instruction.

The Vision School would serve as a formula to unite the various races right from the school level, he said.

He said the Education Department would continue to hold meetings with various groups to explain the government's objectives in setting up Vision Schools.

Abdul Aziz also said the Education Ministry planned to allow English to be used in Physical Education, Living Skills and Sciences in efforts to overcome poor command of the language in schools.

He said seminars would also be held to find suitable method of teaching English in schools.

-- BERNAMA

RZS ABG