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Timely advice on racial polarisation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice in his address to the Gerakan National Delegates Conference 2000 on racial polarisation could not have come at a better time.

As of late various groups have been on a "collision course", with each trying to "outdo the other".

This has sent shivers down the spines of the majority of Malaysians who prefer a more "private and moderate approach" to sensitive issues.

Our founding fathers and the Barisan Nasional concept of power sharing have worked out a formula which has guided this nation for over 43 years, bringing development and progress.

It would be foolish to attempt to break away from this and play up to the racial gallery for narrow political gains and agenda which could be dangerous

The key word here is tolerance, discussion and integration and not defiant public statements that provoke and upset the sensitivities of others.

Therefore the time is right to initiate a comprehensive plan to promote better integration among the various Malaysian communities.

However, to make this a reality, educationists, policy-makers, communities, NGOs, and the various government agencies should play a leading role.

The Education Ministry should lead in the implementation of vision schools, the Housing and Local Government Ministry should act to prevent the overpricing of properties and ensure a fair distribution and racial mix of purchasers in housing estates.