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Vision Schools to strengthen racial ties

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Barisan Nasional component parties today agreed to support the Vision School or Sekolah Wawasan concept to strengthen relations among the country's various races.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Vision Schools would accommodate three schools of different media of instruction in one main campus using common facilities.

"This is one way of forging closer relations (between the various races)," Dr Mahathir, who is BN chairman, said at a media conference after chairing the BN supreme council's general meeting at the Umno headquarters here today.

He said common facilities would be the playing field, assembly hall and the canteen.

There are several Vision Schools already functioning in some States with the first of them located at Telok Sengat, about 20km from Kota Tinggi, Johor.

According to the Education Ministry website, nine Smart School complexes scheduled to be completed this year would also be Vision Schools.

They are:

- * Kompleks Bintang SMK Bukit Bintang Utara;
- * Kompleks Bintang SMK Bukit Bintang Selatan;
- * Kompleks Bintang SR Bukit Bintang Utara;
- * Kompleks Bintang SR Bukit Bintang Selatan;
- * Kompleks Batu Permai SM Batu Permai;
- * Kompleks Batu Permai SR Batu Permai;
- * Kompleks Putra Jaya SM Putra Jaya;
- * Kompleks Putra Jaya SR Putra Jaya 1; and,
- * Kompleks Putra Jaya SR Putra Jaya 2.

Speaking to reporters after the Press conference, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said the separate school buildings would let students retain their separate identities while allowing for interaction while using the common facilities.

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