

Govt to make national-type schools attractive to all

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KUALA LUMPUR The Government wants to make national type schools more attractive to the Chinese and Indians Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said

He said however there were some people who were trying to make non Muslim students wear the *tudung* and *baju kurung* so that national

type schools resembled Islamic schools

Dr Mahathir was commenting on calls by certain parties to only allow schools with a single medium of instruction after Singapore Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew commented that Malaysia's education system did not promote national integration

Since then both the MCA

and MIC have come out in support of vernacular schools

In order to maintain vernacular schools the Government continues to provide them with assistance At the same time we hope these communities will send their children to national type schools Dr Mahathir said after chairing a briefing for MPs yesterday

He added that having more People's Own Language (POL) teachers and classes would be one way to make national type schools more attractive

Parents who send their children to national type schools can then be sure that they will learn their mother tongues and that there will be no pressure on them to accept Muslim practices he said

Dr Mahathir said the Government would woo more language teachers into the service for this purpose

He added that Malaysia was one of the few countries where people were free to learn and speak their own mother tongue

He said one way of promoting national integration was to implement Vision Schools but

this was shot down by the Opposition

On the Kampung Medan issue Dr Mahathir said the Government would not table a motion to debate the matter in Parliament

Anything on Kampung Medan can be raised during question and answer sessions or debates he said