

15 FEB 2001  
Zaharah-Clubs  
UNITY CLUBS TO BE SET UP IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

PUTRAJAYA, Feb 15 (Bernama) -- Unity clubs will be set up in secondary schools nationwide in efforts to strengthen unity among the people through the educational approach, National Unity and Social Development Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said today.

She said the pilot project would be started at Sekolah Menengah Convent Bukit Nanas in Kuala Lumpur next month and added that the proposal came from the National Unity Advisory Panel.

"We must make it (unity clubs) an activity to further enhance interaction among the various races so that there is no racial divide in the society," she told reporters after leading the panel members to meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Prime Minister's Department, here.

She said the club would concentrate its activities on promoting appreciation of the Rukunegara and assimilation of its values.

Dr Siti Zaharah is also chairman of the 48-member advisory panel but only 43 members attended today's meeting.

She said it was hoped that the activities of the club would produce part of the features of a Malaysian society to be jointly upheld towards preserving national unity.

The unity clubs would be extended nationwide if the pilot project ran smoothly, she said.

The meeting with Dr Mahathir was aimed at getting his views on the direction and objectives of the panel.

The panel, established in 1974, plays a role as a forum for open discussion on unity issues besides encouraging positive racial interaction and curbing racial sentiments that could cause conflicts and racial confrontations.

-- BERNAMA  
AFY ZS JK