

PM allays fears

Govt has no plans to close Chinese schools, says Mahathir

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Interests of all races taken into account, says PM

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sent to national schools, there must at least be one place where they can mix with other races," Mahathir said.

He said this was why the government proposed the setting up of the vision schools which enabled three schools of different medium of instruction to converge but administered separately in one campus.

For saturated Chinese schools, he said the government endeavoured to relocate them to a more comfortable area with

the consent of the parents and teachers.

"But when we do this, there are bound to be protests from minority groups and politicians exploiting the issue for personal interest. If we are to bow down to the demands of this minority group, we will get nowhere," he said.

Mahathir said the government is sensitive and takes into account the interests of all races. He said Malaysia has a good track record in terms of racial solidarity compared to the other countries.

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs: The government has never planned or has plans to close Chinese schools. Any such move, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said, will be against the law.

He said the fear among some Chinese that national-type Chinese primary schools would be done away slowly was totally unfounded.

"It is certainly the government's objective to have a single national school system where all students can learn, but we also acknowledge that the other races can have their own schools," he told editors of Chinese newspapers at his office here on Monday.

The prime minister was responding to concern expressed by the edi-

tors that Chinese schools in the country may be done away with.

"Of course, government aid for vernacular schools is not the same as assistance given to national schools, but we still provide aid to the Chinese schools, including the new ones, too," Bernama quoted him as saying.

This, he said, showed that the government has no intention of closing Chinese schools.

"We feel that if Chinese children do not want to be

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