

PM's call to end school segregation controversy lauded

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — There was all round support for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call yesterday to put the school racial segregation controversy to a close.

Following the advice, the National Union of the Teaching Profession also apologised after a meeting last night.

National Conference of Secondary School Principals of Malaysia president Alimuddin Mohd Dom said his organisation welcomed Dr Mahathir's advice.

"But the next course of action by (NUTP secretary-general) Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam should be to meet Education Ministry officials to sort out the matter amicably through discussions.

"In fact, if he had done this in the first place, all this controversy would not have erupted."

The Malaysian Youth Council congratulated NUTP for apologising for the distress caused by its allegations, adding that it showed the maturity and wisdom of its leadership.

Vice-president Norizan Sharif said in a statement that MYC hoped all concerned parties could sit together and discuss the report of the Independent Committee on Racial Segregation in Schools.

Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations president Datuk Hamdan Adnan said all parties should come to terms with prudence, rationality, maturity and reality in heeding the Prime Minister's call.

He said this was a serious enough issue that should be resolved in the true Malaysian spirit through consultations.

He said that Siva Subramaniam was only the mouthpiece for a marginalised group or groups of people.

Cuepacs, in a statement, said it had decided to hand over the racial segregation issue, in which it had acted as an intermediary, to be solved between NUTP and the Education Ministry.

Secretary-general Abdul Rahman Manan said Cuepacs was told that NUTP would be meeting with the Education Ministry on April 1 over the issue, and hoped an amicable solution would be found.