

SUN 17 AUG 2002

# PAS, Dong Jiao Zong are the same: Dr M

**KUALA TERENGGANU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said PAS and the Chinese educationist movement Dong Jiao Zong have conspired to oppose the government's efforts to enhance the level of knowledge among the Malays.

"PAS and the Dong Zong are the same. We cannot support these people. PAS wants the Malays to remain stupid and susceptible to its lies," he said after opening the Terengganu Barisan Nasional Convention.

He said PAS dislikes knowledgeable Malays because clever Malays would be wise to its ploy and reject the party.

PAS had recently supported the call made by the Chinese movement when it objected the government's intention to use English in the teaching of mathematics and science in vernacular as well all other schools.

Earlier, Mahathir said the establishment of vision schools will be extended because the concept can promote racial unity

Under the concept, national,

Chinese and Tamil schools are housed in one complex and share common facilities such as canteens and playing fields.

He said the best way to bring the children of various races together is to ensure that all the students study in national schools.

"However, we find that many (parents and students) are not interested because of too much politicking that the national schools now want to segregate the races, for example, Muslims cannot mix with the non-Muslims," he said.

The prime minister hopes that vision schools would be fully accepted by the country's multiracial society

Education Ministry, parliamentary secretary Datuk Mahadzir Mohamed Khir said setting up vision schools is the best way to tackle the problem of racial polarisation in schools but the objective is hampered by opposition from several parties.

On BN's chances of wresting Terengganu from PAS in the next general election, he said the chances are bright.