

PM: Vision school concept to be

extended
STAR 17 AUG 2002

KUALA TERENGGANU: The Vision School concept, aimed to promote racial unity and harmony among schoolchildren, will be extended, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

The Prime Minister said he hoped these Vision Schools would be fully accepted by the multiracial society in the country.

Under the vision school concept, the national, Chinese and Tamil schools are housed in one complex and share common facilities like canteens and playing fields.

On Thursday, Education Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Mahadzir Mohamed Khir said that setting up vision schools nationwide was the best way to tackle the problem of racial polarisation in schools.

Speaking at a press conference here after opening the Terengganu Barisan Nasional convention yesterday, Dr Mahathir said several other approaches were also being considered to address the problem of racial disunity among students. He did not elaborate on the matter.

He added: "We have to look at other ways of promoting racial harmony among students because non-Malay parents are not interested in sending their children to national schools. They fear that their children would be segregated.

"And that is happening in some national schools. Students would be segregated based on race and teachers would create programmes that would keep Malay and non-Malay students apart."

Addressing the convention earlier, Dr Mahathir said PAS and the Chinese educationist movement, Dong Jiao Zong, had conspired to oppose the Government's efforts to enhance the knowledge of the Malays.

"PAS and the Dong Jiao Zong are the same. We cannot support them. PAS wants the Malays to remain stupid and susceptible to their lies."