

# PPP to propose a single school system

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KUALA LUMPUR: The People's Progressive Party (PPP) will propose to the Government to have a single school system where Mandarin and Tamil languages are made compulsory along with Bahasa Malaysia and English.

Party president Datuk M. Kayveas said the party welcomed the review of the school system announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and hoped it would hasten the formation of a *Bangsa Malaysia*.

"By having a single school system, there will be better racial integration and Malaysian children of all races will have the option to learn Mandarin and Tamil in the same school," he said after the party's supreme council meeting yesterday.

He said prior to the proposed review, the party had already suggested a single school system and to make Mandarin and Tamil language subjects compulsory at its 48th general assembly last month.

Dr Mahathir, who would be chairing the review committee, had on Friday said that education in a national school should encompass all that was required, including religious studies.

The prime minister also said he did not see any relevance in religious schools, which did not teach religion per se but instilled in students teaching contrary to Islam, such as creating dissent and hatred among fellow Muslims.

On another issue, Kayveas said the party would be writing to the

National Registration Department over grave mistakes, allegedly made by clerks filling birth registration forms for the public.

"We have received several complaints of clerks wrongly filling up names and religions," he said, adding that an Indian Muslim child wrongly filled as a Hindu," he said.

Kayveas said clerks must not look at the physical appearance of a person and judge his or her faith.

"We also welcome the proposal to drop connective terms in names, such as "bin", "binti", "a/l", "a/p" or "ak", he said, adding that these connective terms had posed problems to those who frequently go overseas.