

18 AUG 2002
Zaharah-Unity
CALL FOR UNITY CLUBS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

KOTA KINABALU, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- The National Unity and Social Development Ministry today called for the setting up of unity clubs to foster relations among students of various races in secondary schools.

Its Minister Datuk Dr Siti Zaharah Sulaiman said despite efforts to form unity clubs in universities, there was a need to have such clubs in secondary schools to prevent racial polarisation among students.

Talks would be held with the Education Ministry to identify schools for implementation of the pilot project, Siti Zaharah said after launching the "fly the Jalur Gemilang" campaign in Taman Jumbo, Petagas, near here today.

"We (ministry) want the schools or their principals to initiate the setting of these clubs.

"We do not wish to force the programme (on any parties). The important thing is to encourage the setting up of unity clubs in secondary schools to encourage interaction among students of various races," she said.

Asked on whether the programme would be expanded to primary schools, Siti Zaharah said: "The focus now is to boost racial integration in secondary schools".

On Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call for the setting up of unity clubs in universities, she said the ministry would assist in making the aspiration a success.

"We will go to the universities and hold dialogues with their students, we receive good cooperation from the universities' administration," she added.

-- BERNAMA
NT RHM ZUL