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Ensure that all schools have a mix of the three main races

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AS we are about to celebrate our 45th year of Independence, we are still talking of national integration. Of late, various quarters have been harping on this contentious issue with emotions and racial undertone.

What happened? Probably it is a reflection of the inherent weakness in our education system. Our policy-makers must rectify it.

As I see it, the introduction of the national type school with Bahasa Malaysia as the medium of instruction has ironically contributed to the problem in national integration.

Being a multiracial country, it is only natural that some Chinese and Indian parents prefer to send their children to Chinese or Tamil school due to cultural reasons and perhaps in the belief that the national type school will not be able to produce a resilient personality as opposed to a vernacular school. This belief is no more a myth as evidenced by the increase in enrolment of Malays in Chinese schools.

To certain Chinese and Indian educationists, there is no problem at all with their vernacular school so much so they do not see the need for English as a medium of instruction in Science and Mathematics. To them it is not a Chinese or Indian but a Malay problem.

Under the statesmanship of Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the young generation who were born in 1981 (the year Dr Mahathir became the fourth Prime Minister) has taken national integration for granted.

I propose that the government re-introduce the English medium school so that the citizens have a choice for the benefit of their children.

To the non-Malays, they see the national-type school as an extension of the Malay school. Given the choice, they would rather send their children to study elsewhere.

As a Malay, if I can afford I would prefer to send my children to the International School as I believe the future of my children lies in a good command of the English language.

The government must ensure all schools have a mix of the three main races. It will be a novel idea to introduce Mandarin and Tamil as additional languages to foster national integration.

It is time that our leaders put more effort looking into the racial