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More Vision Schools on the way

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The Education Ministry wants to go ahead "in a big way" with the Vision School project and build more such schools to foster racial integration among students.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said besides the nine pilot schools in the pipeline, more schools would be built as soon as the public expressed their support.

"Clearly it has been successful. We want the public to say more about it ...that they like it," he said on the response to the Vision School in Subang Jaya.

"I believe that with the success as well as the overwhelming public support and statements of approval, we will certainly go ahead in a bigger way."

Musa said this after attending the opening of the Open University Malaysia by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad this morning.

He said the Government's confidence in promoting the Vision School concept as a viable method to promote unity had been proven right by the endorsement of parents.

"We have been telling everyone from the start that we are very confident Vision Schools will develop to be good schools and acceptable by all because we have no other intention except to promote unity."

He added that there were sufficient funds to set up nine Vision Schools under the pilot project, but did not rule out the possibility of the Education Ministry seeking additional allocations for the construction of more.

Yesterday Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Samsuddin announced that the country's first Vision School - where students from national, Chinese and Tamil schools share common facilities with a view to fostering racial integration - has been a resounding success.

He said the enrolment for the pioneer Vision School in USJ15, Subang Jaya, was full for next year.

The three schools in the Subang Jaya Vision School complex, which opened in June, are SK Datuk Onn Jaafar, SRJK (C) Tun Tan Cheng Lock and SRJK (Tamil) Tun Sambanthan.