

# Extended hours in Perlis from March 1

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**KANGAR:** Perlis has no qualms about extending school hours till 4pm for all schools because Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad mooted the idea, said Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim.

"We have no worries about seeking permission on the issue as it was the PM's idea and we expect him to announce it sometime later. It is just that Perlis cannot wait that long as it is an excellent move."

Shahidan said the extended hours - 7.30am till 4pm -

would help the school authorities to incorporate subjects taught in community religious schools (SAR) such as *fardhu ain* in Arabic, English language and Moral.

"For national-type schools (SK) and vernacular schools, Moral and even Arabic language can be taught during the additional hours," he said after launching the Malaysians for Peace signature collection campaign here.

"Many Chinese and Indians also feel the need to study

Arabic as it is the language of the oil (energy) industry, so it would be beneficial to learn the basics."

On Thursday, following a meeting with state education department officers and headmasters, Shahidan announced that the extended hours would become a state policy effective March 1.

It is learnt that all headmasters and officers present supported Shahidan's move although it was expected to create some initial problems.