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Ensure a thorough education revamp: Ong

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KUALA LUMPUR: The revamp of the education system should not be confined to the academic structure.

Instead, it should be looked at from all angles to rectify inherent shortcomings, said Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Ong Tee Keat.

Ong, who is also MCA Youth chief, said the reasons for parents' reluctance to send

their children to national schools should be identified and appropriate action must be taken to address the issue.

National schools, he said, will be more appealing to the various communities.

Ong was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's briefing to Umno members last Thursday that the national school system will be restructured to make them more attractive and acceptable to all races.

The system, the prime minister said, has changed very

much and it now lacks the characteristics of national schools.

Ong said the move by the government in overhauling the national school system is appropriate and timely.

Speaking after launching the Ampang Jaya level Peace Malaysia signature drive yesterday, he said the revamp will boost racial integration.

"It should be started when the children are still young and should be given priority in the national agenda," he said.

The Peace Malaysia signa-

ture campaign, Ong said, is an example of activities which will promote racial integration as the various communities come together to do their bid to promote the values of peace.

Ong said 10 secondary schools are taking part in the campaign, with signatures having been collected from 15,136 students and teachers.

"Hopefully, this small measure from us will assist the international community in preventing war in Iraq" he said.