

14 FEB 2003
NUTP-Reshuffle
NATIONAL SCHOOL SYSTEM RESTRUCTURING WELCOMED

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 14 (Bernama) -- The government's move to reshuffle the national school system, to make it more attractive to all races in the country, is welcomed by the National Union of the Teaching Profession.

NUTP secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the move was timely and would encourage more Chinese and Indian parents to send their children to national schools.

"The curriculum restructuring was important and it fulfilled parents' expectations so they'll choose national schools for their children," he told Bernama here today.

Siva suggested that national schools teach Chinese and Tamil languages to attract people of other races. He said national schools should unite the races and reflect the inter-racial harmony that existed in Malaysian society.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad spoke on the need to restructure the school curriculum in his briefing to 165 Umno division leaders here today.

Dr Mahathir said he did not want the Chinese and Indians to shun national schools for vernacular schools believing the former to be only for the Malays and emphasised Islamic teaching.

The Prime Minister said he did not want for Malays to choose only the Sekolah Agama Rakyat for their children in the belief that religious education at national schools were insufficient.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that a new curriculum structure would take into account the needs of all students.

Penang MIC chairman Datuk Dr K. Rajapathy said the restructuring exercise would benefit all races in the long run and help forge unity. The practise of sending children of different races to different schools must end, he said.

Meanwhile, Penang MCA chairman Wong Kam Hoong said this would reduce racial polarisation that current existed in schools. He said children of different races in one school would encourage multiracial interaction in the young.

People's Progressive Party president Datuk Dr Loga Bala Mohan, who also welcomed the move, said it would foster unity in children as they grow up.

However, he said priority must be given to History as the subject would teach children and create an awareness in them about the country's developments.

Penang Gerakan Youth chief Huan Cheng Guan said the school curriculum restructuring would help the younger generation in realising Vision 2020.

-- BERNAMA
SA PC