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Standard `doa' to boost racial integration

SEREMBAN, Fri. - The Education Ministry's Islamic Education and Moral Department has been asked to find ways to introduce a standardised doa (recital of prayer) to enhance racial integration in schools.

Deputy Education Minister Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin said that a standardised version could also help resolve polarisation in schools.

"In schools, the students come from all races and during assemblies or functions, only the Muslims recite the doa.

"We should create an environment that is conducive for all the students. I believe simple matters such as this can enhance integration among students," he said after opening SRK Puteri's 10th Parent-Teacher Association meeting today.

Aziz, who is also Umno supreme council member, added that the recital of prayers at functions should not be confined only to the Malays.

"We should work out a standardised doa that can be recited, understood and accepted by other races as well. For a start, the school is the place."

Aziz said he had discussed the matter at a "high-powered" meeting attended by, among others, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur early this year.

"The PM has agreed that a standardised doa be introduced."