

Schools best place to promote unity, says DPM
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PETALING JAYA: Parents and teachers should focus on integration among the races and not harp on sensitive issues, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday.

He said parents and teachers must appreciate Malaysia's diversity, which had different races, religions and cultures.

The education minister said schools were the best place to promote unity and understanding.

"In schools, we see students of different races and religions sitting side by side. This is a special scenario in Malaysia.

"Even during celebrations, people attend functions without causing misunderstandings. We live in harmony and this is the culture that we have grown up with."

He said this when addressing hundreds of secondary school students and teachers during the launch of the school-level World Interfaith Week at SMK (P) Sri Aman, near here, yesterday.

The launch, which will see students nationwide organising programmes and activities to promote understanding of races, religions and cultures, was attended by Education director-general Datuk Seri Abdul Ghafar Mahmud.

Muhyiddin told teachers and students to instil respect in each other and accept the differences in Malaysians.

"Our relationships will then be more concrete. We can also organise activities to promote understanding between one another.

"We can achieve unity in the country. But we need teachers to help us achieve this unity."

He said in some countries, there was only one race and religion.

"Despite that, there is so much bloodshed, war and tension.

"Malaysia is special. There are different races everywhere, but we live in harmony."

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