Emphasis on Mother Tongue to blame?

BY TEO CHIN KER

I DO not think Singapore will see a repeat of the Maria Hertogh incident — just ask the racist bloggers who were jailed.

Race-specific socio-economic problems, usually the root of racial distrust, are also long gone as equal opportunities abound for all races.

Nevertheless, we should never take racial harmony for granted.

The education authorities may disagree but I feel that placing too much emphasis on one's Mother Tongue will create ethnic enclaves.

The diverse backgrounds of most schools also inculcate intercultural awareness in our schoolchildren.

Having studied in a Special Assistance Plan secondary school, I had few, if any, schoolmates of other ethnicities.

It thus becomes easy to develop wrong and stereotypical views of other races in this homogeneous environment.

The writer has a place to read Economics at the Singapore Management University.