

Mahathir: Let's have staff college for teachers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Friday.

EDUKATION Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed urged college principals today to seriously study the idea of setting up a staff college to give advanced training for experienced teachers.

This would keep alive their will to learn and thus improve and enrich their academic and professional knowledge, he said when opening the conference of college principals at the Lang-

uage Institute here.

"It is hoped that you will be able to submit a memorandum to the Ministry after your deliberations," he added.

Dr. Mahathir said the period for basic teacher training might be increased from two to three years, and the courses upgraded to Degree level.

He added that four temporary centres would be opened next year to train teachers and a "mammoth" project would be undertaken to train temporary teachers.

The shortage

"As college principals, you will have to find ways to overcome the shortage of trained teachers.

"This country will be short of at least 10,000 teachers on the basis of the production of 3,000 teachers a year.

"According to projections, this shortage will remain static for at least three more years unless the rate of teachers training is increased."

Dr. Mahathir said the shortage experienced was calculated on the basis of the present teacher-class ratio.

If the ratio was increased, the shortage would double, he added.