

# Single education system for the whole nation

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**KUALA LUMPUR,** Tues.—The Sabah and Sarawak education systems will be integrated into a single Malaysian pattern as soon as the Cabinet has studied the report of the committee reviewing the implementation of the education policy.

Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said this here today.

"The final draft has already been prepared by the committee and it is a matter of time before the Cabinet goes through the report," he added.

He was speaking to reporters after receiving

a cheque for \$11,000 from Agriculture University Malaysia Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Tan Sri Rashdan Baba for the Tun Razak Foundation. The money was from the university's alumni association.

## The reasons

Dr. Mahathir said: "The review committee was to have completed its work much earlier. But the time taken exceeded the deadline because the response from individuals and organisations was overwhelming.

"The desire of Sabah and Sarawak to have their education systems integrated into a single Malaysian system was also one of the reasons for the delay."

At present, the two east Malaysian States are autonomous in education although they consult the Education Ministry from time to time. There is also very close liaison between the two education departments and the Ministry here.

"We are very happy that they have indicated their desire for the integration," Dr. Mahathir said.

Speaking on the complete take-over of the Cambridge Examination Syndicate, Dr. Mahathir said that the change was "in reality, a mere formality."

"Over the years, the Malaysian Examinations Syndicate has been progressively taking over the setting and the marking of the major examinations and the answer scripts," he said.

"We are setting most of the examinations papers and also correcting them. We have sufficient trained people to replace the Cambridge syndicate completely by 1978."

He said local educationists had studied the examinations systems in other countries like in East Africa where they had an effective system.

"These officers are now well equipped to be on their own," he added.