

Religious college for teachers

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — The Government will set up a religious teachers training college in Petaling Jaya next year Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

It will occupy the premises of the present Islamic Faculty of the University Kebangsaan, which is moving to Bangl.

Replying to points raised during the debate on Datuk Hussein's policy speech at the Umno general assembly, Dr. Mahathir said the site originally offered by the Trengganu State Government in the State would be used instead for building an ordinary teachers college.

He also said that another teachers college would be set up in Sungei Patani.

He further remarked that it was not true to say that degrees offered by the Universiti Ke-

bangsaan were not of the same standard as those of the University of Malaya.

He said the Government had always recognised degrees offered by the Universiti Kebangsaan to be of the same standard as those offered by other universities.

On the selection of candidates to fill vacancies in Government departments, he said this depended not only on their academic qualifications but also on their performance at the interviews.

Steps taken

On the shortage of bumiputra students in the Engineering Faculty of the University of Malaya he said steps were being taken to remedy the situation.

The university would set up a basic science centre to train bumiputra students in science so that they could be streamed into the Engineering, Medical, Science and Dentistry Faculties.

The Education Ministry was also reviewing the syllabus for religious education and would increase the time allotted for the subject in schools.

On the United Kingdom Umno Club, Dr. Mahathir said it was important to encourage the club and help it to carry out its activities there.

If this was not done, Malaysian students in London might come under the influence of other political parties and thinking.

Primary Industries Minister Datuk Musa Hitam, who replied to points raised about the Rubber Industries Smallholders Development Authority (RISDA) said that the National Bureau of Investigation was now investigating irregularities involving Risda officers not only in Perak but also in other States.

He cited a case where replanting aid was initially not approved for 97 acres of land belonging to seven Malays.

However, when the



Dr. Mahathir addressing the Umno assembly yesterday.

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hope to

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achieve: Hamzah

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land was subsequently sold to a Chinese, replanting aid was granted. He said this was an example of how the Malays in the rural areas were being cheated.

Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Hamzah Abu Samah said the Government was determined to achieve at least 70 per cent of the target of the New Economic Policy in respect of bumiputra participation in commerce and industry.

He added that the percentage of bumiputras in business had risen from year to year. This included those involved in the distribution of cement, steel, kerosene and motor-cycles.

Agriculture Minister Datuk Ali Haji Ahmad,



DATUK ALI

speaking in his former capacity as Culture, Youth and Sports Minister said that it was important to draw Chinese youths into the national youth programme.

For long, youth clubs

were confined to Malays only. If the Chinese were not attracted to youth clubs under the patronage of the Government, they might come under the influence of communists.

He also said the Government would take action over allegations that most of the top executives of the Malaysian Co-operative Insurance Society were of one racial group although the majority of the shareholders were Malays.

Foreign Minister Tengku Ahmad Rithaudeen, touching on suggestions that ambassadors be appointed from among politicians, said this was already being practised to a certain extent. Several politicians had been appointed as Malaysian envoys abroad.



TENGGU RITHAUDEEN

Deputy Information Minister Dato Seri Haji Kamaruddin Isa said the Government would act on the recommendations of the team that went to London to investigate missionary activities among Malaysian students there.