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Varsities can use it to

By WONG CHUN WAI

KUALA LUMPUR: Technical subjects in universities will be taught in English as soon as possible.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said English would be used where necessary for subjects such as engineering and medicine.

"We cannot let the efficiency and capability of our people to be lower than those in other countries," the Prime Minister said yesterday when announcing the Cabinet decision.

This was necessary if the country was to remain competitive, he said after unveiling the corporate identity of the second national car companies.

Now lectures and tutorials are conducted in Bahasa Malaysia but most of the reference books used are in English.

The International Islamic University uses English and Arabic for instruction, but the others use Bahasa Malaysia.

Dr Mahathir said the country lacked the expertise to translate technical books into Bahasa Malaysia.

He said it was much more convenient and pragmatic to master English.

"We are of the opinion that once we have become a successful race, our language will gain respect and become successful also," he added.

Dr Mahathir also confirmed the Government had allowed the setting up of a University of London branch campus if it followed the necessary regulations.

Asked whether the Universities and University Colleges Act would be amended next year to enable the decision to be implemented, he said there was no such plan yet.

In launching the second national car logo, Dr Mahathir said *Kancil* would be the name of the 600cc car.

"The mouse deer is small, speedy, good and always intelligent," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the car had great potential and the Government planned to export it.

The first unit will roll out of the Serendah assembly plant in July and will be available to the public by September.

No price has been fixed but two models — standard and deluxe — will be introduced.

Perusahaan Otomobil Kedua Sdn Bhd (Perodua) chairman Raja Tun Mohar Raja Badiozaman said 20,000 units would be manufactured initially, with the first trial run in February.

He said the company had set a target of 45,000 units annually in the near future.

teach technical subjects

ENGLISH