

Radicals forming regional league, says Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government has received information that the Kumpulan Mujahideen Malaysia (KMM) has formed a league with other underground fundamentalist groups from Indonesia and the Philippines.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said these groups had come together to work on a common objective, that is, to set up Islamic governments in the three

countries.

"Their objective is so ambitious - to set up Islamic governments in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines through force - but it will not be that easy," he told reporters after opening the Malay Education Congress at the Putra World Trade Centre yesterday.

He said the objective was unrealistic as their disenchantment stemmed only from their belief that

STAR - 2 572 2001

the governments were unIslamic and led by *infidels*.

Dr Mahathir said the emergence of KMM and other extremist groups was the result of students being influenced by teachers who wanted to further their own political agenda.

"According to a study carried out by the Government, at least 300 Malay university students admitted they did not feel they were Malays, and wanted to be acknowledged only

as Muslims.

"But the irony is that their brand of Islam is only limited to hating a government which they perceived as unIslamic. Nothing more."

These students have so much anger inside them and this made them so worked up that they could easily become religious fanatics, the Prime Minister said.

On the reported move by the Government to take over the Light

Rail Transit companies Putra and STAR, Dr Mahathir said the details were being finalised.

"We are looking at the terms. What is clear is that we definitely have to take over the two concerns."

The Government had reportedly planned to acquire 80% of Putra and STAR - leaving the remaining shares to Renong Bhd, Taylor Woodrow Plc and other shareholders.