

Congress resolves to promote Malay excellence

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By Hazatul Syima

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun: The Malay Education Congress today approved three resolutions, including the establishment of an association to monitor and promote excellence among the Malays, especially in education.

Committee member Datuk Dr Mokhzani Abdul Rahim announced the resolutions, which were unanimously approved by the 1,000 participants present, at the closing ceremony of the congress.

Two further resolutions were made to establish a Malay educational research and development institute and to create a Malay education and development fund.

The resolutions are part of a declaration by the two-day congress called *Deklarasi Putra*, held at the Putra World Trade Centre.

In the declaration, the congress proclaimed that:

- every Malay individual has the right to quality education and to seek effective counsel against any impediment which may prevent them from achieving excellence in education;
- teachers are an important part of the process of developing a race and culture worthy of praise;
- all parties government, private sector, families and individuals must cooperate to overcome problems faced by the Malays at all levels;
- every policy change on Malay rights in education must not conflict with the social contract con-

tained in the Federal Constitution;

- policies and programmes to help Malays in education must not be race-based but instead be for the nation's peace and stability.

The two-day congress was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad yesterday.

Congress chairman Tengku Razaleigh Hamzah said the committee will meet as soon as possible to establish the said association.

Asked whether the declaration goes against the meritocracy system proposed by Mahathir for Malay students, Tengku Razaleigh said: "No: Our hope is that any policy implemented by the government does not go against the social contract agreed upon by all the races."