

PM: Nothing wrong with Tabung Haji management system

Nst - 3 MAY 2002

JITRA, Thurs. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said there was nothing wrong with the system used by Tabung Haji in managing its affairs.

He said the problems, which resulted in losses of RM200 million, were caused by unscrupulous individuals.

"This should not be seen as a Tabung Haji weakness as it was the work of certain dishonest individuals. We have replaced those involved and taken action against them," he said.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Kubang Pasu Umno division chief, was replying to a question by a party member.

To another question, he said the Government could not simply take action against civil servants who opposed it and it was better to win them over with the soft approach.

On the water supply agreement with Singapore, he said the Government was bound by an agreement to sell water at three sen per 4,546 litres to the republic.

He said the Government bought back the same amount of treated water from Singapore at 50 sen.

"We know it is not a very good deal but we are bound by an agreement signed in 1963," he said.

"We cannot just break the agreement although it was a mistake."

Meanwhile, he assured Kubang Pasu voters he would not contest in the newly-created Putrajaya Parliamentary constituency in the next general election.

"Everyone wants me to contest in Kubang Pasu.

"I give you an assurance that if I were to contest, it would only be in Kubang Pasu."

The division later passed five resolutions, including asking the Education Ministry to increase the number of hours for English classes in schools and to use the language in the teaching of other subjects.

This was needed to improve the use of English among students, especially Malays, in rural areas.