

Using IT to teach subjects in English

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IN an innovative approach to introduce the use of English in Science and Mathematics in schools, teachers will use CD-ROMS and computers for the subjects, Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said yesterday.

He said this was to make easier the process in view of the shortage of English language teachers.

"We have to have this new approach because we cannot wait too long. We will experiment this way," he told the Umno general assembly in his winding-up speech.

The Prime Minister said glitches in the implementation were expected but the Government would swiftly find ways to overcome them.

Courses would be prepared and designed with the necessary software provided in this new approach.

"The pupils will be taught pronunciations of words. They will listen and they will pronounce the words. The teachers will also know and learn. Computers will assist the teachers and pupils.

"If the pupils or teachers get the

wrong answers, the computers will answer in written or oral form."

Dr Mahathir said this was not a conventional method, but then the country must apply such a method if it wanted to see success early.

"We leapfrog. We hasten the process because we have to," he added, pointing out to the Malaysian car project which took three years to complete through such an approach.

He said that if Malaysia had adopted the conventional approach, the Proton Saga would have been realised only in 2085.

Dr Mahathir said this was in line with Malaysia's approach in achieving success in all areas.

He also expressed gratitude to the delegates for endorsing the Government's policy on meritocracy and the 10 per cent allocation for non-Bumiputera in matriculation courses and Mara Junior Science colleges.

On meritocracy, he said although Malay students had proven that they excelled academically when they registered more than 55 per cent in public universities entrance, they should not be complacent but work hard to maintain their performance.

On the 10 per cent quota allocation for non-Bumiputera, he said this would provide the competitive environment for Bumiputera students.

Malays, he said, must learn to "walk a little without crutches".

But he said that in the implementation of these policies, the interest of the Malays and their future generations would not be ignored.

"Umno will not betray the Malays."

On assistance for Malay students to enter private colleges, Dr Mahathir said that Government was always willing to offer financial assistance.

But he said, those who could afford to pay the fees, should do so and not depend on the Government.

Dr Mahathir also advised the Malays not to have a lot of debts but to be prudent in the management of their finances, adding that he himself did not owe any bank any money.

"I believe in the saying that one should neither be a borrower or a lender."

Dr Mahathir reiterated the need for self-reliance to prevent from being beholden to others, taking the country as a prime example of being able to preserve her independence, politically and economically.