

02/09/2002

`World-class centre for medical research'

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Malaysia should be developed into a world-class centre for medical research, producing medical scientists and experts.

People's Progressive Party Youth chief T. Murugiah said that one way to achieve this was to set up more medical hospitals.

He said that Malaysia could be turned into a "main producer of doctors", pointing out that in the past, the country imported doctors from abroad.

Murugiah, in his address at the PPP Youth general assembly today, said as a developing country, Malaysia should consider this option.

He also urged the Government to ban political parties from using religion to win the people's support.

"Religion a sensitive matter which should be respected and managed by the respective followers," he said, adding that if this unhealthy trend was not checked, soon there will be many religious-based political parties in the country.

Should this happen, the nation would be destroyed because of religion, said Murugiah.

He also called for the promotion of national integration among young Malaysians as racial ties were weakening.

The assembly also passed 20 resolutions, including one expressing support for Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the successor to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Among the resolutions were to support the Government's decision to use English to teach Mathematics and Science in schools; urging the Government to ban smoking while driving and impose a similar penalty on those who use mobile telephones while driving and proposing that Penang, Pulau Pangkor and Pulau Redang be given free-port status.