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TWO reports yesterday gave hope and inspiration for the young people of Bahrain and the growing campaign to ensure that an increasing proportion of workers are Bahrain-born.

Bahrainisation is now the stated goal of more and more private companies as well as of all Government departments. Considerable progress has been made, but there is still a long way to go.

It is necessarily a slow process. Technicians and other experts cannot be trained overnight. But with determination and the enthusiastic backing of Government ministers, the target can be achieved.

A significant move towards the Bahrainisation target was made when two committees, established to handle the challenge of employing more Bahrainis in as wide a range of employment as possible, met for the first time at the Employment Services Bureau of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

The committees offer private employers the opportunity of direct contact with the Ministry. For the first time the private employers and Ministry personnel are now able to get together to make the best use of

Bahrainisation programme moves forward

their joint expertise.

The move has been welcomed by the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Abdulnabi Al Sho'ala, who described it as an opportunity for Bahrain to demonstrate the value of practical localisation policies. He said he was delighted to see private sector employers showing such commitment.

While the new committee was meeting, there was an equally important development when the Minister of Cabinet Affairs and Information, Mohammed Ibrahim Al Mutawa received the Youth and Science del-

egation from the Bahrain Centre for Studies and Research.

The Minister underlined the vital role played by the youth of Bahrain in contributing to the future of the country and highlighted the importance of preparing and training the nation's young people to meet the challenge of the 21st century.

All aspects of business and technology are becoming increasingly complex and there are few jobs that do not require specialised training.

If Bahrain as a nation is to meet that challenge it is essential that its young people are fully prepared to play their full part in its economic and commercial expansion.

Bahrain has the facilities. Its further education and vocational training resources are excellent and it is rightly proud of its university and other institutions.

Now, with the full co-operation of Government and the private sector it can look forward to a successful new century in which all its people will be fully involved not just because they are Bahrainis, but because they are as well trained and as well-equipped as anyone anywhere to assume those responsibilities.