

Education Ministry will determine varsity charges

Nod for fees increase

By

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Cabinet has approved higher local university fees, Prime Minister ~~Datuk~~ Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, he said the Education Ministry would be given the task of determining the quantum for the various academic courses at the six local universities.

The Ministry had sought Cabinet approval on the fee hike recommended by universities which felt that there was a need for an increase in view of the comparatively low fees charged by institutions of higher learning.

The Cabinet approved the fee hike at its weekly meeting last Wednesday.

Dr Mahathir said university fees in Malaysia were low and there was a need for students to pay fees which were appropriate.

"This is because sometimes free or cheap education is not appreciated," he said.

recently submitted their applications to join the party and only the supreme council could give its approval.

"It is party policy to accept all Malays applying to join or re-join the party as long as they fully subscribe to Umno's struggle," he said.

He said the four were not offered any positions in the party as it was not Umno's policy to offer positions to attract people into the party.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council also appointed former Pas vice-president Haji Mohamed Nakhaie Ahmad assistant information officer for the party's headquarters.

When asked why Haji Nakhaie was appointed to the position, the Prime Minister said he had the capability to serve in such a position.

On the international front, Dr Mahathir said he was not surprised at the attempt by the US to discourage Indonesia and Japan from joining the East Asia Economic Group initiated by Malaysia.

He said the US did not

"If they pay more, they will realise the difficulties their parents have to go through and thus will strive harder to succeed and will not indulge in other activities that will not benefit them."

The Prime Minister said this after a four-hour Umno supreme council meeting at the party headquarters today.

Dr Mahathir said the supreme council today approved membership applications from four former Semangat 46 members including its Youth chief, Ibrahim Ali, who is Pasir Mas Member of Parliament.

The other applications approved were that of Encik Nordin Salleh, the State Assemblyman for Sungei Pinang in Kelantan, Encik Azmi Ali, Tumpat Semangat 46 Youth chief, and Encik Abdullah Nor from Tumpat.

Dr Mahathir said the four

favour the formation of any group or organisation in which it was not represented.

"I discussed this matter with President Suharto of Indonesia who did not reject the invitation to be a member of EAEG.

"Japan has also not rejected the invitation as yet and we will fully brief Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu who will be visiting Malaysia at the end of next month.

"I would like to stress that the EAEG is not a trade bloc but just a grouping which is interested in participating in international trade through discussions among member countries," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the Economic Planning Unit in the Prime Minister's Department also briefed the supreme council on the progress of proceedings of the National Economic Consultative Council.