

PM: Malay girls holding up quota

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'If not for them, bumi intake in varsities would reduce by half'

Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the number of Malay students in universities will be reduced drastically if not for the female students.

More Malay female students are accepted into universities now compared with males because of the fact that the females are more studious.

"They do not loiter around. They are more responsible. Thank God. If not for female students, the number of Malay students in universities would be reduced by half," he said in his keynote address.

Mahathir said there is no proof that female students are more intelligent than their male counterparts but the ratio in universities now is 20 males to 80 females.

"When will male Malay students realise their responsibility towards their race, religion and country? Do they think society must support them all the time?" he asked.

The problem lies in the Malays' "lackadaisical attitude" towards seeking knowledge.

"Malays do not really emphasise the acquisition of knowledge. Parents do not force their children to study. Some suggest that

since quotas are provided for Malay students, a modest standard of qualification is sufficient to gain entry," he said.

Mahathir said the Malays are no less intelligent than the other races

but need to emulate the non-Malays who regard seeking knowledge as noble.

The Malays also have to decide whether they believe other forms of knowledge, apart from those specifically related to Islam, are im-

portant to them as Muslims, and to Islam itself.

"If we believe that other forms of knowledge are not important, it is better for the government not to give places to Malay students in universities in these subjects. There is no need for us to have quotas for Malay students at the expense of the non-Malay students," he said.

With the dawning of the Information Technology age, Mahathir said, Malays must seriously strive to acquire this new knowledge if they do not want to be left behind.

"One condition for us to master this knowledge is by mastering the English language," he said, adding that 99% of the information is in English.

Mastering English will not make the Malays any less Malay or Islamic. Instead, it will help them progress and succeed.

"Let us not, as a result of this narrow perspective towards the Malay language, allow the Malays to once again miss out on the information age revolution," he said.

If this happens, the Malay community will regress, be looked down upon, and be made to look stupid.