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## 'Study harder and do not dwell on politics'

Malay students in foreign institutions are advised to concentrate on their studies and not dwell on the political agenda associated with the debate over the education quota here recently.

In an hour-long meeting with representatives of 18 Kelab Umno, party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad expressed his concern over the poor academic performance among Malay students, even those in foreign institutions.

Umno Kelab UK and Eire chairman Kamarul Rashdan Salleh said the prime minister told them of the problems that arose when many excellent Chinese students were not offered seats in local universities and that had raised questions of whether the quota system was relevant.

"He repeatedly reminded us that we should work harder, not merely to compete with the rest, but to be at par with them," he said.

Kamarul said Mahathir told them a time may come when the quota system in education will be abolished, but this can only come about if the number and quality of Malay students in tertiary education improved.

"The prime minister said if the majority Malay students excelled, then the purpose of the quota has been achieved, and I think we will not need the quota anymore," he said.