

# PM: Study first, govern later

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today urged university students to focus on education and to be patient in their desire to take over the government.

He said students need to be knowledgeable and have the right attitude as these are important to ensure that the future leadership will be better than the present one.

"When you are in power, you will realise that the situation is not as expected, there will be fights. In reality, our country has a lot of problems. We are a developing country and we are still poor.

"We have to work hard to make the country rich and this effort cannot be taken if the country is chaotic," he told a symposium on *Idealism for Undergraduates in the New Millennium* at Universiti Malaya.

Mahathir also expressed his concern over the attitude of the Malays who are too dependent on the government, saying that increasing the bumiputra quota would mean reducing the quality of education and this would not ensure success for the bumiputras.

"We will always be dependent on the government's goodwill for our

studies. As a Malay, I feel embarrassed when my race needs to be helped to that extent although my race actually has the same ability.

"All that we don't have is the effort."

On the high number of Malay female students in universities compared to their male counterparts, Mahathir said this is because the male students would look at the so-called "injustice" in society rather than acquire knowledge.

"Don't be angry if I say that the injustice is when we allow those

with lower qualifications to enter universities whereas those with higher qualifications were denied. That is injustice."

Mahathir said making proposals and sending memorandums to the government asking for more special privileges are not suitable approaches anymore.

"The right approach is to ask yourself what you can do for your own accomplishment. We must work hard so that we don't have to ask from people and don't become a race which only knows how to ask."