

# Shock tactics

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## PM: Radical steps needed to make Malays study

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri:** The government may take some radical steps, including basing university admissions on meritocracy, to shock Malay students into doing better.

Other measures include limiting their places in public universities and reducing financial aid.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said: "If forced to, we will stop or reduce the intake of Malay students into university.

"We will do it, and maybe, for one year we might just base all admissions on meritocracy."

Mahathir said such steps have to be taken because "they (the Malay students) are so convinced that they do not need any help from the government".

"There are those who don't realise help is given so they can enter university. We need to show (them) what the actual situation is if there is no government aid.

"Even if they get in, they are not studying, so we will see what happens to them when they don't get an opportunity," he told a press conference

after chairing a three-hour Umno Supreme Council meeting today.

The supreme council discussed several problems, including the perceived decline in student morals, the number of women teachers in schools and the gender gap in university enrolment, faced by the education system.

"We need to think about the importance of the students' future and that of the country," he said.

The prime minister also spoke about the need to implement changes properly, saying that the parties involved will need to be committed or else the plans will fail.

He said a new system of teaching will also be introduced, with teachers acting as facilitators who teach according to the curriculums set.

"This will be broadcast

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through limited Internet usage to schools so that whatever that is taught is according to the curriculum set without any discrepancy or diversion," said Mahathir, who once held the education portfolio.

"This is to improve the education system so that bumiputra and Malay students can succeed ... they have the potential but are influenced not to study and instead told to concentrate on other things."

The problems have become big and this can be seen where students are

involved in crime, rape and vandalism. Some are also involved in anti-religion and satan-worship.

"These are serious problems and if we do not overcome them with seriousness, there is a possibility it will become much worse."

What is sad, he said, is that those involved are bumiputras, especially Malays, and there are not many problems among non-bumiputra students.

He said bumiputras or Malay students never showed much success unlike non-bumiputras who also study in same school and have teachers in the same environment.