

# Mixed reactions to Dr M's prescription for Malay students

SUN, 4.9.2001

PETALING JAYA, Sat: University admission based on meritocracy will jolt Malay students into working harder, said Peninsular Malay Students Federation president Datuk Suhaimi Ibrahim.

He said although Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion yesterday is "too bitter to swallow", it was meant for their good.

"This will give a strong psychological impact to the Malays that they should work hard to earn a place in universities rather than be given an assurance of getting there.

"If the Malays want to be seen as a world-class race, they should no longer depend on the quota system," he said.

Nevertheless, he added, all quarters must work together to ensure that the Malays are prepared to face the

new challenges.

Umno Youth's education bureau chairman Dr Idham Baba said although the suggestion was meant for the good of the Malays, other alternatives should be considered first.

Idham said admission based on meritocracy "within the Malays" would serve as a better alternative.

He said by going for the meritocracy "within the Malays", Malay students should be "screened" right from secondary school to understand their inclination in politics.

"If they are known to go against the government, then let them find other universities to pursue their studies."

PAS Youth chief Mahfuz Omar said a meritocratic admission system is against the Federal Constitution and would not solve the problems among Malay students.