

SUN, 29 JUL 2001

Pledge to study or get out: PM

By R. Manirajan

SHAH ALAM, Sat: Students in the next university intake may have to sign a pledge to stick to their studies and show results, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today.

"We have not made a decision yet but that is our suggestion. If students do not want to study, no way are we going to accept them into university," he said.

The government is considering the move in order to compel students to attend lectures and work

diligently with their teachers, he said when asked about Umno's proposal yesterday for the introduction of a meritocratic system in public institutions of higher learning.

Yesterday, Mahathir, who is also Umno president, said the government may take radical steps, including basing university admissions on merit, to push Malay students into doing better.

Other measures include reducing quotas in public universities and cutting financial aid.

Speaking to reporters after his

turn to **PAGE 2**

Students who want to campaign should stay out of varsity: PM

from **PAGE ONE** SUN, 29 JUL 2001

working visit to Sirim Bhd here, he said that with this agreement, only those interested in studying could enter university.

He said students used to threaten to campaign for the Opposition if they were criticised.

"They don't want to learn, they want to campaign. If they want to campaign, then stay out.

"Only those interested in studying should join the university. Those who are not interested, please go and campaign."

He said if students were criticised for fooling around while studying, they would arrogantly reply that it was the people's money, not the government's.

"We know that it is the people's money but we are the

trustees, so we have to administer it as prudently as possible."

He said the government has yet to decide on implementing the meritocracy system but it will not accept students who are not interested in studying.

"I think so," he replied when pressed further on whether the system would be implemented in the next academic session.

Mahathir said academicians and students who are not in favour of an open quota system should focus on the opportunity given to them.

On anti-establishment attitude among undergraduates, he said he was also in university once and does not remember having such an attitude. "I was anti-British, yes ... but that is not establishment."