

# University act to be amended at next parliament session

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun:** The government will amend the Universities and University Colleges Act at the next parliament session in October which will allow for an agreement between the government and the lecturers and students.

"We are studying what rules and regulations in the act that need to be strengthened so that we will be able to table them soon," said Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said students in the next university intake may have to sign a pledge to concentrate on their studies and

show results.

"If students do not want to study, no way are we going to accept them into university," Mahathir was reported as saying.

Musa said the amendments are necessary based on the present situation where students are concentrating more on other activities than in their studies.

"It is necessary for these students to be given a strong reminder and just taking an oath is not sufficient. Now, it is more towards an agreement," he said after attending the ministry's family day here.

He said this will enable students and lecturers to know the dos and don'ts, adding that steps are being taken to prepare the agreement.

On the possibility of implementing a merit system at university for next year's intake, Musa said: "We

will study it."

He also confirmed that there are academicians who are not in favour of an open university quota system.

"Whenever we want to mend situations and make our society realise their responsibilities, there will be those who will politicise the issue and make it sound negative."

Musa urged the Malay community and Malay-based political parties to be positive about the impending changes, as he feels Malay students must realise that opportunities given should not be wasted.

Asked if the impending measures will have a backlash on the government, he said that will depend on how the Malays want to look at it, either from a negative or a positive point of view.

"We should take a positive approach and work on it," he said.