

# PM: Agreement won't hinder students

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KOTA KINABALU, Mon. — The proposed requirement for students enrolled in public universities to sign an agreement with the Government will not be an obstacle for them to be admitted into institutions of higher learning.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the proposal would instead ensure that only students who were genuinely committed to their studies were admitted.

"If they (students) are committed to their studies, the question of signing an agreement (with the Government) will not be a problem," he told a Press conference before returning to Kuala Lumpur

after a day-long official visit here.

He was asked if the proposed requirement would discourage or become a hindrance for students entering universities.

Dr Mahathir said students who had no interest in studies should not sign the agreement and be admitted into universities.

He said in his previous meetings with university students, they complained to him of not being able to concentrate on their studies as they were asked by certain quarters to attend *ceramah* that were irrelevant to their studies.

Dr Mahathir said as a result, the students could not focus on their studies.

The agreement with the students was necessary because the Government did not want them to waste public funds.

Dr Mahathir said the agreement was only for students entering public universities.

He said students of private universities have to pay between RM60,000 and RM70,000 for a course and as such if they did not concentrate on their studies they would incur the wrath of their parents.

Dr Mahathir said the performance of Bumiputera students in universities was very discouraging because their minds were influenced by political parties.