

Umno to brief members on merit proposal

By R. Manirajan

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed: Umno will hold a special meeting to discuss the proposal to base university admissions on meritocracy, party deputy president Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said.

He said the meeting, to be held soon and attended by division and branch heads, is to clear any misconception and answer queries about the plan. The government proposes to implement it at public universities for a year to jolt Malay students.

The decision was made at the party's management committee which met at Parliament House today.

"Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad wants to explain his recent statement on the meritocracy system to members," said Abdullah.

Speaking after attending the Dewan Rakyat sitting, he said Mahathir's statement was based on the performance of Malay students and the party regards this as something very important.

Umno's struggle, he added, is to make bumipu-

ture to **PAGE 2**

PM briefed cabinet on proposal

from **FRONT PAGE SUN 2 AUG 2001**

tr as excel in education and if their achievements are not satisfactory, "something needs to be done".

"Umno members want to know the actions and steps that will be taken to overcome the problem and that is the reason for the meeting.

"The party president is not satisfied with the performance of Malay students both in school and university and the feeling is shared by other Umno leaders," he said.

Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein, however, wants the government to reconsider the proposal, saying bumiputra students still need the quota system.

"The gap between the Malay and non-Malay students in science and technology is still obvious," he said on Monday.

Abdullah said that if the poor performance among Malay students is left unchecked, "what will happen to the Malays in the future when the world becomes more competitive and complex?"

He said Mahathir also briefed the cabinet today on his proposal. Asked for details on the briefing and the system that will be implemented, he said they are not ready.