

Meritocracy to be in 'doses'

SUN

Too much medicine is no good for patient, says Dr M

By R. Manirajan

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs: Meritocracy will be implemented in stages and the proposal to apply this concept to student admission to universities is just the first step.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the implementation of the system will be carried out in right "doses" as it is a corrective measure.

"I am a trained medical doctor and know a lot about medicine but too much medicine is also no good for a patient.

"When we give the medicine, we have to be very careful about the dosage," he said.

Mahathir was speaking at a dialogue session on *Tolerance - The Malaysian Model* at the Malaysian Institute of

Islamic Understanding today.

Bernama executive editor Azman Ujang had asked whether non-Bumiputras can be appointed as vice-chancellors of universities and as the chief secretary to the government.

Using the doctor and patient analogy, Mahathir said things have to be done step by step and if the method is a success, "we will continue but we have to remember that medicines are sometimes not liked by patients even though they can cure them, so we have to be careful".

He added that the system must be implemented in stages as not everybody can accept it.

Mahathir also said Malay students do not excel in their studies because they are living in a "comfy zone".

He said too much love

is making them complacent and they are taking things for granted.

He added that it is natural that a person becomes complacent when too much love is showered on him.

Giving an example, he said when a child is given extra love and allowed to do things his way, he will be spoilt.

"When he lives in a real world without the protection of his mother, the child realises that the world is too competitive and challenging for him to cope."