

Merit from next intake

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PM: Entry criteria for Malays to be raised gradually

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We want high quality Malay students, says Mahathir

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mentation, Mahathir said if the requirement now is 7As, it will be raised to 8As.

He said once they perform better, the government will raise the standard to another level until their qualifications are on par with those of other races.

He said the government wants to warn Malay students from now to start studying hard and get good results.

"It is better that they study hard. If they concentrate on their studies, instead of getting involved in other activities, many will obtain the results required," he said.

Mahathir said a smaller number of Malay students may qualify at first but if they study hard and try again, they may succeed.

He said the tougher entry requirements will

apply to all courses.

"(For Arts), if we impose meritocracy, the number of Malay students will be reduced. This will be very embarrassing. (Even) in Bahasa Melayu, there are fewer Malays compared to the non-Malays," he said.

He said all faculties will implement this based on needs, adding that while the government wants to increase the number of Malay students, it does not want those of low quality.

"If the students get involved in other activities, their performance will be affected, then maybe we will be forced to *hentikan* (expel) them," he said.

Asked if this will compromise the quota system, he said: "Yes, of course, it will. If possible, you want to have the cake and eat it as well. But this is not possible ... we have tried."

On the briefing, Mahathir said he explained the

reasons for implementing meritocracy.

"I just explained the root cause of this is that children today do not get the right guidance from their parents, but the parents are not that much to blame," he said.

He said many religious teachers have not been teaching religion but politics of hatred against the government and certain people.

"This has resulted in the students not having strong religious faith in the true Islamic teaching ... that is why they are easily influenced by deviant teachings such as satan-worship.

"Moreover, because of their anger, they cannot concentrate on their studies and therefore, they perform badly, starting at the school level."

Due to their poor results, they are unable to qualify for entry into universities.

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed: The entry requirements for Malay students to public universities will be raised from next year when the meritocracy system is implemented.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said this will be done in stages as imposing this in totality would result in a drastic drop in the number of Malay students.

"If we impose this all at once, it will badly affect them to the extent that there may be no more Malay students in certain fields," he said after a special briefing to Umno divisional leaders on the meritocracy issue today.

Mahathir said the system will be implemented gradually, starting with a slight increase in the entry requirements based on the courses.

"This is so that they can concentrate on their studies in schools and obtain better results if they want to enter universities," he said.

Citing an example of gradual imple-

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