

# Modified merit system for intakes gets thumbs-up

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PETALING JAYA: National Union of Teaching Profession secretary-general Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam welcomed the modified merit system for public university intake and was confident the system would prove itself in the long term.

"It doesn't mean that it is stealing from the bumiputras to give to the non-bumiputras but it will instead give an equal fighting chance. This will go a long way towards producing a more committed bumiputra society," he said.

Siva Subramaniam also said the move would ensure that quality students would be produced.

MCA vice-president Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn hoped that bumiputra students would be inspired to work harder to improve their academic standing.

"I am sure that the PM has studied the matter very carefully, and that he is making a very wise decision."

Sarawak United People's Party president Tan Sri Dr George Chan Hong Nam said if a country wanted to be competitive in facing globalisation, a meritocracy system

would give it such a spirit and get the country going.

"Once we overcome the problem of infrastructure in the rural areas, a meritocracy system will not be at a disadvantage to the students from rural areas," he said.

Gerakan vice-president Datuk Dr S. Vijayarajam commended the move saying that it would be good for all races.

"It is a good idea. It will be good for the non-bumiputras and an incentive for the bumiputras to work harder," he added.

DAP secretary-general Kerk Kim Hock said it was a step in the right direction.

"We must approach the issue maturely. There should not be a dependent mentality and this is a good start in the right direction," he added.

However, PAS president Datuk Fadzil Noor said the party believed that all deserving students, irrespective of race, should be given their rightful place at institutions of higher learning.

"The higher entry qualification for bumiputras will result in Ma-

lays not being able to get places in universities for something which is no fault of theirs.

"I see this as more a punitive measure against the Malays and to get Chinese support," he added.

Parti Rakyat Malaysia president Dr Syed Husin Ali said the implication of such a system should be studied carefully.