

'Start children on road to academic excellence early'

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KUALA LUMPUR. Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said in a determination to 'achieve academic excellence should be instilled in children when they are in primary schools, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said today

He said this should be the main objective of the meritocracy system in order to address the declining achievement in education, especially among bumiputera youths.

"This is the right time to address the implementation of the system as we have to ensure our children will not

lose out in the long run in a globalised and borderless world." He was speaking to reporters after presenting cash awards to 78 recipients of the National Sports Council Prize Winning Scheme.

Hishammuddin, who is also Umno Youth chief, said the merit system should be introduced gradually and not just for entrance into universities.

"Umno Youth is satisfied with the explanation given by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."