

# *Dr M: Merit system for three faculties*

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KUALA LUMPUR: The merit system for students' admission into public universities next year will only be implemented in the arts, science and technology faculties, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said the standards of academic qualification for these faculties would also be raised.

"Our aim is not to implement meritocracy fully. We need to consider that the number of Malay students into universities is not drastically reduced.

"The same goes for religious studies. We need to increase the academic re-

quirement before students can be accepted into universities and ensure that religious studies are free of any political element or hatred-campaign against the Government," he said after a three-hour Umno supreme council meeting here.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said the council was briefed on militant activities, which he described as a struggle to seize power from a democratically-elected government through violent means.

"They are purportedly aiming to create Islamic nations among countries in the region when their actual objective is to wrest power for themselves.

"It looks as if they can't wait for the democratic system to install them to power?"

Dr Mahathir also said that

the council discussed on the reported underground anti-government activities in local universities.

"We have identified certain approaches but I will not reveal them" he said.

A former Universiti Teknologi Malaysia student Wan Noor Hayati Wan Alias had claimed that she was part of a systematic underground network of students in public universities set up to influence Malay students to overturn the government.

Asked on fear that the KL International Airport be used as a transit point for terrorists, Dr Mahathir replied:

"So far we know they have been using KLIA in order to smuggle migrants to other countries (like) to Australia. We have not received information for terrorist activities."