

Varsity to keep science matriculation centre

KUALA LUMPUR: Universiti Malaya will abide by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's advice to keep the science matriculation centre open.

Its vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain said he received the letter of advice from the Prime Minister on Tuesday.

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"We will meet with the Department of Higher Education on Monday to discuss the intake and the mechanism for it," he said after a meeting with an Umno Youth delegation led by its education bureau chairman Dr Adham Baba.

To a question, Prof Anuar said the university was not au-

tonomous and as such it always followed directives.

In 1998, all universities together with the Education Ministry decided that their matriculation centres would come under and be run by the ministry.

The decision was to allow universities to concentrate on research and developing qual-

ity degree holders.

Other universities had closed their matriculation centres.

The centre in Universiti Malaya had stopped taking in new students two years ago.

Universiti Malaya used to take in 1,000 students for the science matriculation programme each year.

There are now only 196 matriculation students left at Universiti Malaya who have not completed their course.

Prof Anuar said accommodation was a problem at the university, adding that the university would discuss with the ministry whether to build more hostels for the science matriculation students.