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Dr M's assurance on proposed meritocracy

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today assured the people that the proposed meritocracy policy for entry into public universities would be implemented in a constructive manner.

He said while the Government would stick to its decision on this, the proposal would be carefully defined and given a lot of consideration before implementation.

"We will not destroy everything ... we will define it carefully and implement it in a constructive manner," he said at the presentation of Finance Ministry's excellent service awards here.

Dr Mahathir said he could not give details on how the proposal would be implemented as he had yet to explain the plan to Umno members.

"I want to explain what we want to do in order to wake up the Malay parents and community. They will then seriously attend to education matters for their own good," he said.

Last Friday, the Government proposed to take radical steps to tackle the problem of Bumiputera students lagging behind in education.

If the meritocracy policy is adopted, university entrance will be based on qualification and merit and not on racial quota.

Replying to a question, Dr Mahathir said he had expected Pas to politicise the meritocracy issue to woo support from the Malays.

"But we are not only responsible for the party (Umno)... we are responsible for the people. Umno is responsible for the Malays."

He said moral decline among the Malays was so bad that many criminals, rapists, drug addicts, HIV/AIDS patients, murderers and school truants were from the community.

Dr Mahathir said during early days of independence, the Malays were serious about studies, but now they were more interested in being influenced by Pas' political lies.

The Prime Minister said he knew for a fact that some university students were campaigning for Pas.

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