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Entry into Utar will be on merit

; Deborah Loh; Brenda Lim; V. Shankar; Ganesh; P. Sharmini
ELIGIBILITY to enrol in Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar) will be based on qualifications as there will be no quota, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"It is open to all races but they must have the qualifications to enter. If they are not qualified, we cannot blame the MCA or the Chinese community. They open the university to all races. There is no quota," he told a Press conference after opening the MCA's 48th General Assembly at Wisma MCA in Kuala Lumpur.

He was commenting on the assurance given by MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik that students from all races would be able to seek places in the university.

Asked whether there was a proposal to make Utar a public university, Dr Mahathir said if there was a suggestion, the matter would have to be studied in depth.

Earlier in his speech at the opening of the assembly, Dr Mahathir said the Government agreed to the setting up of Utar in the belief that it would not be exclusively for the Chinese.

"Other races will also have access," he said.

Dr Mahathir was also asked about the decreasing Chinese population and if it would reduce the MCA's importance.

He said it was the percentage of Chinese that was getting smaller, not their numbers.

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