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GOVT WON'T APPLY MERIT SYSTEM FULLY FOR TIME BEING, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 3 (Bernama) -- The government will not apply fully the merit system on new university enrolment for the time being, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We also have to take into consideration the reduction in intake of Malay students if the system were to be fully implemented.

"As such we shall implement the system in stages so that the reduction in Malay student intake will not be that glaring," he said.

In its efforts to raise the performance of Malay students, the government would have to first raise their qualification level before they could be accepted to enrol in universities, the Umno president said at a news conference after chairing the party's Supreme Council meeting at the party headquarters here today.

Dr Mahathir said the government would also ensure that universities only teach students genuine religious knowledge without mixing it with political indoctrination and hate-the-government campaign.

Today's council meeting was also briefed by the Umno education bureau on the performance and problems of Malay undergraduates in local universities.

"After dwelling on the matter it is found that the situation is quite bad... we also discussed ways to implement the merit system," Dr Mahathir added.

-- BERNAMA  
SR AFY NMO RYN