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Musa-Meritocracy

INTRODUCTION OF MERITOCRATIC SYSTEM SHOULD BE VIEWED POSITIVELY

KUALA LUMPUR, July 29 (Bernama) -- The government's proposal to introduce a meritocratic system in public institutions of higher learning where university admission for Malay students will be based on merit should be viewed positively, said Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad today,

He said the system was intended at pushing Malay students to excel in their studies.

"The community, including political organisations should look at it positively, we cannot view every proposal negatively, we should discard such thinking," he told reporters after the ministry's family day at the Forest Research Institute of Malaysia in Kepong here.

On Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the government would adopt radical steps, including basing university admission on merit to push Malay students to do better.

Musa said the meritocracy policy may have to be implemented to prompt Malay students not to neglect their studies and education opportunities given to them by the government.

He said there were groups of students who had wasted their education based on the quota system as agreed to by all races for admission into institutions of higher learning.

"This agreement was not easy to reach and therefore we should not take it for granted or else people will demand for its abolishment if the opportunities are not used to the fullest," he said.

Asked if the matter would be politicised, he said, "That's to be expected as when we try to improve upon a situation and try to make the community realise its responsibilities, there will be people to politicise the issue for negative intentions."

Musa also said the condition that students in the next university intake may have to sign a pledge to stick to their studies, should be implemented immediately as students were now involved in many other activities other than studies.

"It is not enough to get them just to make a pledge but to get them to pledge in writing," he said.

Musa also said amendments to the University and College University Act 1971 would be done by the end of the year.

-- BERNAMA

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