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Mahathir-Centre

MAHATHIR TO GET MORE INFO ON SCIENCE MATRICULATION CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he would seek more information on the Universiti Malaya (UM)'s Science Matriculation Centre before he could say anything more about its future.

"I will get the full information from Deputy Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi)...after that, we'll see," he told reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) airport here on his return after a four-day visit to Osaka, Japan in Subang, near here today.

The Prime Minister was asked to comment on the UM's decision to close the centre which has over the past 24 years helped to increase the number of Malay students in science at the pre-university level.

On the possibility that the government might order the centre to be retained as it is, Dr Mahathir said, "Let's wait...maybe retained, maybe not...we'll see."

Yesterday, UM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain was adamant in wanting to close the centre although several other people including Abdullah had asked the university to rethink its decision.

The centre, a brainchild of former vice-chancellor Royal Prof Engku Aziz, was set up in 1977 with the blessings of Dr Mahathir who was then Education Minister.

The centre has helped to increase the number of Malay students in science at the pre-university level and later absorbed into science-based faculties in UM.

Dr Anuar Zaini had said the closure was on the directive of the Education Ministry.

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