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Merit-based system briefing

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - A special briefing on the merit-based system to be implemented soon in all public universities was held for vice-chancellors and senior officials from the Education Ministry today.

The session was chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The half-day, closed-door session at Putrajaya was also attended by Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, Education director-general Datuk Abdul Rafie Mahat, deputy vice-chancellors, principals of teachers' training colleges, and representatives from State and district education departments.

Attendance was compulsory.

Abdul Rafie confirmed that the briefing was on the merit-based system but declined to elaborate.

Cases of student indiscipline, allegations of a jihad movement being uncovered at Universiti Utara Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia were not discussed.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced that a merit-based system would be introduced from next year at public universities to ensure Bumiputera students take their studies seriously.

A briefing on the system was held at the Putra World Trade Centre on Aug 8 for Umno members.

Musa later said the ministry was still deciding on the most suitable method of implementation for the system.

Among the methods being considered are to increase slightly the minimum entry requirement for Bumiputera students, and to ensure undergraduates retained a certain level of academic excellence while in university.