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Mahathir-Meritocracy

MERITOCRACY WILL BE IMPLEMENTED IN STAGES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said meritocracy will be implemented in stages and the proposal to apply this concept with student admission into universities was just the first step.

He said the implementation of the system would be carried out in right "doses" as it was a corrective measure.

"I am a trained medical doctor and know about a lot of medicine but too much medicine is also no good for a patient. So if we are to administer medication it must be done in the right dose," he said at a dialogue session on "Tolerance-Malaysian Model" at the Malaysian Institute of Islamic Understanding here today.

Dr Mahathir used the doctor and patient analogy when answering a question from the floor on whether the meritocracy system for Bumiputera university admission would be extended to the public service where one day non-Bumiputeras can be appointed as Vice Chancellors of universities and as the Chief Secretary to the Government.

He explained that the system must be implemented in stages as not everybody would be able to accept this if the government were to implement the meritocracy system across the board.

"To be able to swallow too much medicine, I do not think everybody can accept it. We should be able to make some correction along the way.

"We can take the first step, if we succeed God willing, we will continue but sometimes we must realise that the medicine can be too bitter to swallow although it can cure the ailment," said Dr Mahathir.

The Prime Minister also said the meritocracy system to be proposed for introduction has yet to be explained by the government but it would base university admission on excellent qualification.

He said details of the concept would be explained later.

Dr Mahathir added that the rationale behind the proposed introduction of the meritocracy system for student admission into universities was aimed at reminding Malay students that if they do not excel in their studies they risk losing their university seat.

The government, he said wanted to assist Bumiputeras in the field of education because of their poor background before but now they come from better backgrounds.

Better school facilities, health services and equal lifestyles for all races are now available for all races as such Malay students need to be more studious in their studies to compete for university entrance, he added.

"We are aware of human mentality, if we pamper them too much, they will not know how to carry themselves. A child which is pampered too much can end of being spoilt," he added.

-- BERNAMA

AFY ZS DVS