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Mahathir-Meritocracy

MERITOCRACY TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 3 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the government will introduce meritocracy in a constructive way to wake up the Malays to attend to their own education for their own good.

The prime minister said meritocracy did not mean that the government would destroy everything.

"We still stick by meritocracy, but we have to define what we are going to do, we are not going to destroy everything, we are going to do in a very constructive way.

"But at this point in time, I cannot explain yet because I'll be talking to Umno members soon and I'll explain to them what we intend to do in order to wake up the Malay parents and the Malay community so that they will seriously attend to their own education for their own good," he told reporters after presenting excellent service awards to Finance Ministry staff here.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, was responding to a question on the government's stand on meritocracy which it intends to introduce for the admission of bumiputera students into public universities.

He said the government would proceed with the meritocracy plan out of a sense of responsibility to the people, especially the Malays, although the opposition, especially PAS, would turn it into a political issue.

PAS, he said, would use anything as a political issue wheres the measures taken by the government were to overcome the problems and correct the Malays.

He cited as example the glaring moral decline among the Malays and their involvement in crimes.

"When we speak of drugs, the majority (of those involved) are Malays, HIV-Aids the majority are Malays, rape the majority are Malays, murder too the majority are Malays, everything it's all Malays, not attending school, the majority are Malays," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that when the nation attained independence, the Malays were so serious about wanting to learn and to improve themselves but because of too much politics and instigation by PAS they could not study and when the government wanted to improve them PAS would turn it into an issue.

"I know that students in the universities say that they will campaign for PAS...because we forbid them so that they can concentrate on their studies...they want to campaign for PAS. That's always the threat, whenever we want to do something good it will be made into an issue by PAS," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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