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Abdullah-Meritocracy

MERITOCRACY POLICY NOT POLITICAL AGENDA, SAYS ABDULLAH

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The government's decision to implement the meritocracy policy for admission of Bumiputera students to public universities is not a political agenda, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

It is also not aimed at "bashing" the students, the Deputy Prime Minister said.

"The statement on meritocracy by our leader (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) arose from concern that Bumiputera students lag far behind non-Bumiputera students," he said.

Speaking at a dinner organised by Ipoh-based Sekolah Tuanku Abdul Rahman Old Boys' Association (Staroba) here tonight, Abdullah said Bumiputera students lagged behind in almost all subjects.

He said if nothing was done to address the matter, Malays would not be able to face future challenges and compete in the world.

Abdullah said the government's decision to implement the meritocracy policy, which involves raising the entry requirements, was aimed at getting Bumiputera students to work harder to get a place in university.

"We don't want our children to just depend on privileges and not excel (in their studies)," he said.

Abdullah said the country's leaders, especially Dr Mahathir, were very sad over the low achievements of Bumiputeras in the academic field.

-- BERNAMA

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