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Mahathir-students

STUDENTS TO SIGN AGREEMENT WITH GOVT PROMISING TO PERFORM

SHAH ALAM, July 28 (Bernama) -- Students joining the universities may have to sign an agreement with the government to ensure that they will perform in their studies, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

He said the government might consider the move for all aspiring students to ensure that they attended lectures, took down notes and asked the lecturers whatever they did not understand.

He was responding to reporters' questions on Umno's proposal yesterday that the meritocracy system be introduced in the public institutions of higher learning.

Speaking to reporters after his working visit to Sirim Berhad here, he said that with this agreement, only those interested to study could enter the university.

Dr Mahathir also reminded students to make the best use of the opportunity in the university to study.

He said the students used to threaten to campaign for the opposition if they were criticised.

"They don't want to learn, they want to campaign. If they want to campaign then stay out.

"Only those interested in study should join the university. Those who are not interested, please go and campaign," he said.

Dr Mahathir also said that if the students were criticised for fooling around while studying, they would arrogantly reply that it was the people's money, not the government's.

"We know that it is the people's money but we are the trustee so we have to administer it as prudently as possible," he said.

Asked whether the government was adamant about implementing the meritocracy system, Dr Mahathir said it had yet to be decided.

However, he said that the government would not accept students who were not interested to study.

Pressed further on whether the system would be implemented in the next academic session he said: "I think so".

-- BERNAMA

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