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(The NST diary)

DKL

On The Merits of The Case UMNO leaders' indignant rebuke to Pas for continuing to breach Malay unity and Islamic solidarity is understandable. Extremism, under the guise of religious fervour, has destroyed scholarship and caused poor performance among Malays in schools and at tertiary level.

Dr Mahathir Mohamad's meritocracy edict was a forgone conclusion. Endorsed by the Cabinet and then by Umno, it will be implemented in stages and in selective disciplines next year.

The minimum entry qualifications will be raised for Bumiputeras seeking places at universities. Students not devoting time to their studies and those who fail to maintain a satisfactory performance will be sacked.

Likewise, professors and other staff who subvert students will face not only the wrath this time around but also perhaps instant dismissal as is the norm in a neighbouring country. There will be rigorous rules governing students and academic staff.

The diarist is not opposed to the Government's determination to bring forced changes. But why not throughout the system; reinventing and reorganising the Government and society?

Old assumptions have been replaced by new paradigms and Dr Mahathir's "new paradigm" can lead to drastic change in Malaysian politics. A new ball game has begun, which reminds the diarist of Tennyson's poem:

The old order changeth, yielding place to new,  
And God fulfills Himself in many ways,  
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.