

26 JAN 2001

UM-Accepts

UM ACCEPTS PM'S ADVICE ON RETAINING MATRICULATION CENTRE

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 26 (Bernama) -- The University of Malaya (UM), in accepting the advice of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, said today that the Science Matriculation Centre at the university would be retained.

The university said in a statement that it had discussed the matter with the Education Ministry as the intake of students to the centre had stopped two years ago after the ministry had set up its own Matriculation Centre.

At the moment, the UM is merely monitoring the progress of the remaining 196 students who are still studying at the centre which was earlier scheduled to close down in April.

"The university will discuss with the Education Ministry to ensure that students who had successfully completed their studies at the ministry's Matriculation Centres would be taken in to fulfil the needs of science and technology-based faculties in the coming session," the statement said.

The university's science and technology-based faculties need about 1,750 bumiputera students in the coming academic session.

The statement also said that the university would discuss with the Education Ministry immediately on the intake requirement for students into the Science Matriculation Centre for the coming session.

The proposed closure of the UM Science Matriculation Centre had been opposed by various quarters including lecturers, former students, intellectuals and politicians.

It became a hot issue when UM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain was reported as saying that the centre had to be closed on the directive of the Education Ministry although Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi had called for the proposal to be aborted.

The issue was then brought up at the Umno Supreme Council meeting in Melaka on Monday which had agreed to leave the matter to Dr Mahathir to decide.

Dr Mahathir was today reported as saying he had advised that the UM Science Matriculation Centre remained open.

-- BERNAMA

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