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V-C on need to raise entry requirement

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The minimum requirement for entry to public universities should be raised from time to time to encourage students to excel in studies, Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Professor Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain said today.

This way, secondary school students would have to constantly perform well academically to be accepted for tertiary education.

"Malaysia needs to develop and for that, we need competitive citizens. This can only be achieved through the implementation of the meritocracy system," he said after receiving donations to restore the Dewan Tunku Canselor.

He said secondary school students had been "complacent for so long", the meritocracy system would push them to work hard to gain entry to universities.

Anuar Zaini said once the students entered universities, the concern should be on increasing their quality.

"Students should not be scraping through the courses. Instead, they should seek other knowledge and skills to handle job employment upon graduation."

In the UM, he said, the students' academic performances were constantly monitored to ensure that they achieved a certain standard set by the university.

"We do not want people who are not interested in learning to be here," he said, adding that this problem was more serious in science-based faculties. The university was also reviewing its curriculum to fill students' time with activities relating to academic performance to keep them away from unhealthy activities.

On Monday, Prime Minister and Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the party's supreme council had decided that initially the meritocracy system would only involve those pursuing studies in the fields of literature, Islamic studies and science and technology.

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