

No quotas in private varsities

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Prime Minister reiterated yesterday the Government's stand not to impose any kind of quota on student intake in private universities and colleges despite the negligible number of Bumiputras studying in such institutions.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said despite efforts by the Government to push for academic excellence among Bumiputra students, they still formed only about 20% of the overall number of undergraduates nationwide.

"Although they form 55% of stu-

dents in public universities, their overall numbers are actually lesser than the non-Bumiputras.

"We realised that it is not possible to impose the quota system because even to fill up the 55% quota sometimes we have to scrap the bottom (of the barrel)," he told reporters after attending a Hari Raya gathering at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang near here.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir urged students to show their gratitude for the sacrifices of their parents and benefits provided them by the Government by concentrating on their studies.

He said there would be time

enough for the students to meddle in politics after they had concluded their studies and were no longer dependant on others for their livelihood and survival.

He reminded students that forming a right attitude from young was important, especially so with globalisation and the new challenges.

Dr Mahathir warned that unless they were willing to change their attitude, the Bumiputras would become a backward race in a developed country once Malaysia achieved its 2020 vision.

He also dismissed rumours that the Government planned to revert back to the old UPM name.