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Mahathir-Matriculation

MATRICULATION OPENED TO NON-BUMIS TO ALLOW COMPETITION

PUTRAJAYA, May 31 (Bernama) -- The government is opening the matriculation programme to non-bumiputera students so that the bumiputera students can compete with them, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said today.

The prime minister said what was happening now was that some matriculation students, especially those from the Mara colleges, did not know students of other races at all.

As a result, the majority of them did not know the real challenge, not having competed with the other races, he told reporters after chairing the second pre-budget dialogue at the Prime Minister's department, here.

"If we don't know the other races, we cannot interact with them...we cannot be educated with a fence around us.

"Tomorrow we will not be able to compete with anyone," he said when asked for the government's rationale for opening the matriculation programme to other races after 30 years of catering solely for bumiputera students.

Dr Mahathir said he saw no reason why certain parties should feel dissatisfied with the move because Malaysia is a multiracial country.

He said the Malay students should be able to compete with the other races and not depend on government support alone to gain success.

He said that if a person did not strive to walk without a crutch, he would never be able to do so.

Asked when the matriculation programme would be opened to the other races, Dr Mahathir said: "As soon as possible".

It was reported that the cabinet, at its meeting on Wednesday, decided to give 10 per cent of the seats available for matriculation courses to non-bumiputera students starting next year.

This will give non-bumiputera students another channel to enter the public universities. All this while, they can only apply to enter the public universities with the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM).

-- BERNAMA

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