

14 JUN 2002

NO QUOTA IN PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SUBANG, June 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today there should not be any quota imposed on the intake of bumiputera students at private universities.

The prime minister said that as it was, there were already a few private universities with a substantial number of bumiputera students.

"Why continue to have a 10 per cent (quota) if you can have 40 or 50 per cent. There are private universities where we have very big numbers (of bumiputera students). You'll only limit them (if quotas are imposed)," he told reporters at the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) station here upon his return from a week-long trip to Europe.

Umno Youth had called for a 10 per cent bumiputera quota on the intake at private universities after claiming that the number of bumiputera students studying at such institutions was low compared with the public universities.

However, the Cabinet has decided that the number of bumiputera students in private institutions of higher learning should be increased although here would be no quota.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, in announcing the Cabinet's decision, said bumiputeras currently made up 40 per cent of the students in private institutions of higher learning but were mainly concentrated in institutions that are government-backed or have bumiputera concern such as Universiti Tenaga and Universiti Petronas.

-- BERNAMA

AT MAM JK