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PTPTN LOAN WILL NOT BE INCREASED, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

PUTRAJAYA, June 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) cannot give the full loan to students in private institutions of higher learning (IPTS) as it will deprive other students of the facilities.

He said it was a soft loan and parents should find other sources to cover the educational expenses of their children.

"If we give the full loan, half of the students might not get the loan at all. So, when we give RM5,000 more students will get the loan," he said when commenting on the issue of 30 Bumiputera IPTS which might have to close down due to financial problems.

According to newspaper report, 80 per cent of the Bumiputera students rejected offer to study in IPTS as they could only get RM5,000 loan from PTPTN compared to RM9,000 needed to study in IPTS.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said this at a news conference after chairing a pre-budget dialogue session at the Prime Minister's Department here today.

Dr Mahathir said that in the past there was no such assistance at all.

"We try to help as much as we can," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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