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Mahathir-Students

DR MAHATHIR WANTS TO SEE EQUAL RATIO OF MALE AND FEMALE STUDENTS IN UNIVERSITIES

SHAH ALAM, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir tonight challenged male Malay students to increase their number in universities to equal that of female students.

The Prime Minister said he wanted to see a 50:50 ratio of male and female students as presently female students made up 70 per cent of the student population.

He said he was not trying to cut down on the number of female students in universities but he would like to see more male students making it to institutions of higher learning.

"Oh Malay young men, where are you? If you dare, challenge the female students, challenge them to a race to seek knowledge and enter university," he said when officiating the UiTM National Day Festival 2003 (FESKEM 2003) at the UiTM main stadium here.

Dr Mahathir regretted to see that not many male Malay students succeeded in furthering their studies in universities and the only places where the 50:50 ratio could be seen were at shopping complexes.

The Prime Minister said women were now very capable in many fields including engineering as well as efficient in management of finance.

He said students should not feel content just because they succeeded in gaining places in universities but should strive to excel in their studies.

Dr Mahathir said students should realise that the government was willing to spend 26 per cent of its budget for education.

"We are willing to spend a lot of money for you. You have to prove that the money is not wasted. You must be diligent in your studies," he said.

Dr Mahathir said students had to acquire knowledge not just for themselves but for their race, religion and country.

-- BERNAMA

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