

Hindraf: Dr M finally admits discrimination exists
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KUALA LUMPUR – Dr Mahathir Mohamed has finally admitted the practice of racism and discrimination exists in the government system, said Hindraf national coordinator W. Sambulingam.

Sambulingam was referring to a statement made by the former Prime Minister on Saturday that was posted on a news website. Mahathir was quoted as saying: "If we use the merit system, half of the university students don't qualify."

Sambulingam inferred from the statement that Mahathir, during his rule, and the Umno government had discriminated against non-bumiputra students, whereby their constitutional rights to education have been curtailed.

In the past 40 years, the government had violated Article 8 & 12 of the Federal Constitution, Sambulingam said.

"The citizens of this country are now been told that bumiputra students can only survive at the expense of non-bumi students."

According to him, the government was failing the country and its citizens when it practised discrimination.

But the situation of bright students not getting government aid is slowly improving. As a result of pressure from social and political groups to offer more scholarships to deserving Malaysians, the government has this year altered its policy, saying that SPM students who scored 9A+ or more will automatically be qualified for government scholarships.

The current administration under Najib Abdul Razak is granting such awards for local or overseas studies irrespective of race.

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