

90:10 system will apply for students with special needs

NST-23/1/2007

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KUALA LUMPUR: Students with special needs who want to enter public universities will still be evaluated on their co-curricular achievements.

In a joint statement yesterday, Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed explained that the policy to adopt the 90:10 system would remain for students with special needs.

The policy states that applicants are given 90 per cent of points for

academic achievement and 10 per cent for co-curricular activities.

There will, however, be different considerations for them as a group.

This year, the Education Ministry will handle the calculation of marks for the co-curriculum activities of students applying to public universities.

The 10 per cent marks is an important step to produce more well-rounded students.

According to the ministers, students' co-curricular activities would be evaluated based on four aspects: attendance (50 per cent), involvement (20 per cent), achievement (20 per cent) and positions held (10 per cent).

Attendance means attending 42

meetings or events a year, encompassing 18 meetings of uniformed bodies, associations or clubs (12 meetings) and sports or games (12 meetings).

This means that students who take part in several different associations will have an easier time gaining the total marks for attendance.

However, students who join associations only to become deadwood cannot possibly attain the full marks.

Their involvement will be determined based on the level of participation, whether at the schools, district, divisions or zones level or at state, national or international levels.

"The assessment for the positions

held will be based on the level of the position, and the skills, knowledge and seniority of positions of uniformed bodies, or through appointments through general meetings of clubs, or appointments based on the mastery of games in sports or games."

For this year, the records for students' performance in co-curriculum that are already in place will be adapted to the concept and formats which will be introduced.

At least two years' worth of records for students will be taken as the basis of assessments for the 10 per cent co-curricular marks for entrance into public universities for the 2007/2008 term.