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PRIME NEWS



Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad greeting the people attending a discourse in conjunction with the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 in Alor Star yesterday. Pic by Syaharim Abidin

'University act still relevant for certain students

BE RESPONSIBLE:

Focus on studies and not politics, says Dr M

ALOR STAR

THE Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) is relevant for university students who are incapable of self-responsibility or those who do not appreciate the privileges accorded to them, former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Dr Mahathir, when asked whether the act was still relevant, said the government never prohibited students from organising debates in the university.

"What we forbid is them going here and there to campaign. People pay to educate us, so we should be responsible to those who are sponsoring us by studying well.

"Many students gained entry into universities not because of their academic achievements. If they don't work hard, they will lag behind.

"They should focus on completing their studies, obtaining a job and earning an income. Then, they can do what they like," he told reporters after attending a discourse in conjunction with the International Year of Cooperatives 2012 yesterday.

Dr Mahathir said students should not think that they could not become good politicians if they did not get involved in demonstrations.

"During my time, there was no demonstration, yet (I) turned out to be quite a wise politician.

"What is regrettable is that those who are objecting to the UUCA are Malay students.

"I am not racist but Malay youths who are not highly qualified are the ones who want so much to have the act repealed. The UUCA won't be relevant if we know how to take

care of ourselves."

In another development, Dr Mahathir will be conferred an honorary doctorate in political science by Naresuan University in Bangkok today.

The university, with its main campus in Phitsanulok, said the honorary doctorate was conferred in recognition of Dr Mahathir's contributions to the people of Malaysia and Asean member countries. University president Prof Dr Suhjin Jinahyon will confer the honorary doctorate on Dr Mahathir in a ceremony at a hotel in the Thai capital.

The university was named after King Naresuan. It started out as College of Education in 1967 and became Phitsanulok Campus of Srinakharinwirot University in 1974. It was officially granted university status on July 29, 1990.

The university took a half-page advertisement in an English newspaper yesterday, congratulating Dr Mahathir over the conferment. Bernama