

1974

(P) KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 19 (BERNAMA)—STUDENTS IN INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING ARE FREE TO TAKE UP ANY SUBJECT AS LONG AS IT IS PART OF THE INSTITUTION'S SYLLABUS, THE EDUCATION MINISTER, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED, TOLD THE DEWAN RAKYAT TODAY.

HE SAID DURING QUESTION TIME THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD NO INTENTIONS OF WITHDRAWING THIS "FREEDOM."

HE WAS REPLYING TO ENCIK ZAKARIA HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN (BN-BESUT) WHO HAD ASKED IF THE MINISTRY PROPOSED TO REVIEW THE ACADEMIC FREEDOM THAT WAS BEING PRACTISED IN THE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING.

"STUDENTS IN THESE INSTITUTIONS ARE GIVEN ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND THE GOVERNMENT DOES NOT INTEND TO WITHDRAW THIS FREEDOM," DR. MAHATHIR SAID.

HE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER THAT THE STUDENTS WERE BOUND BY THE COUNTRY'S LAWS.

HE ADDED THAT THE ISSUE OF ACADEMIC FREEDOM WOULD NOT COME UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE MINISTERIAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

THIS COMMITTEE, HE SAID, WOULD LOOK INTO THE PROBLEM OF WHETHER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EDUCATION POLICY IN HIGHER INSTITUTIONS WAS ON THE WHOLE CONDUCTIVE TO THE CREATION OF A UNITED AND DISCIPLINED SOCIETY. — — BERNAMA MORE 1644/MD

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REFERRING TO THE RECENT BOYCOTTS OF CLASSES BY STUDENTS IN TWO SCHOOLS IN PERAK AND PENANG, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THIS WAS STILL BEING LOOKED INTO.

THE MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE STUDENTS AND THE SCHOOLS' ADMINISTRATION HAD CAUSED THE STUDENTS TO BOYCOTT, HE ADDED.

HE WAS REPLYING TO ENCIK FAN YEW TENG (DAP-MENGLEMBU).

DR. MAHATHIR EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER THE INCIDENTS.  
— BERNAMA 1654/MD