

Mahathir



gives a pledge on academic freedom

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KUALA LUMPUR,
Tues. — The Government does not propose to withdraw academic freedom in institutions of higher learning, Education Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

Students are free to take up any subject as long as it is part of the syllabus, he said in reply to Encik Zakaria bin Haji Abdul Rahman (NF-Besut).

"Students in these institutions are given academic freedom and the Government does not intend to withdraw this freedom," he said.

A probe

He pointed out that the students were, however, subject to the law of the country.

Dr. Mahathir said the issue on academic freedom would not come under purview of the ministerial education review committee.

However, the committee would look into the problem of whether implementation of education policy in higher institutions as a whole is conducive to the emergence of a united and disciplined society.

Two schools

On students in two schools in Perak and Penang who boycotted classes recently, Dr. Mahathir said his Ministry was still looking into the matter.

They had boycotted classes because of a misunderstanding with school authorities.

He expressed concern over the incidents "for if these continue unheeded, expenditure on education will be wasted."