

# Pupils may have to sit for Bahasa again

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Wed.** — MCE candidates may have to re-sit their Bahasa Malaysia paper if investigations reveal that the leakage is serious and widespread, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"I believe that people have been selling copies of Bahasa Malaysia question papers. The police are now conducting a thorough investigation," he told the New Straits Times.

He said certain people concerned with the examination might have

committed a breach of trust. "These people must be regarded as criminals."

His Ministry would consider re-setting the questions in other papers if there had been a serious leakage in those papers too. "All such steps would, of course, depend on the seriousness of the leakage," he added.

## The origin

There were rumours every year of leaked examination papers, he said. Only a thorough investigation would reveal the truth. "Once I have the complete police report, I shall be able to decide what action to take."

He said he would consider a call made today by Umno Youth to re-set the Bahasa Malaysia papers and bar students who had access to the leaked papers from taking the paper for three years.

Asked about reports of a widespread leakage of the Bahasa Malaysia paper in Perak, Dr. Mahathir said: "It is possible that there was widespread distribution of copies of the question papers there," but added that this did not necessarily mean that the leaks originated in Perak. "We cannot pinpoint the origin until investigations are complete," he said.

The leakage could have taken place at any point between the setting of examination questions and the distribution of question papers.

Perak's State Director of Education, Encik Mohamed Ali bin Ibrahim, said in Ipoh that copies

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of the examination paper were found in the books of some pupils, in the corridors of some isolated examination centres.

"We did not question the pupils, since we did not want to upset their frame of mind," he said.

However, all regional supervisors and chief invigilators have been told to examine all packages containing examination papers carefully for any sign that they may have been tampered with.

Two teachers' organisations, besides Umno Youth's education committee have called for Government action to see that such leaks does not occur again.

Mr. Gurnam Singh, deputy president of the National Union of the Teaching Profession said it would help in the investigation.

He asked the Ministry not to penalise candidates "merely on suspicion."

The president of the Malaysian Educators Social Action Council, Mr. S. Radhakrishnan, said more effective measures must be taken to forestall any similar leaks.