

# Govt loan books are only for reading: Mahathir

**M**ALACCA, Thurs.— Books under the Government's loan scheme are for reading only and are not to be used as workbooks, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said here today.

"Inclusion of workbooks in the loan scheme will create problems," he said.

He was commenting on complaints that primary school pupils were not allowed to write anything in books loaned to them.

"This is something we did not look into, but workbooks cannot be included in the loan scheme because once pupils write in them, they cannot be loaned again to others," Dr. Mahathir said.

## More colleges

However, he gave an assurance that he would

look into the matter.

He was speaking to reporters after meeting Chief Minister Haji Abdul Ghani bin Ali.

Dr. Mahathir also disclosed that five teacher-training colleges would be built before the end of the Third Malaysia Plan. Four would be financed by the World Bank and one by the Malaysian Government.



**DR. MAHATHIR**

... called on Malacca Governor

"We are doing everything possible to increase the number of trained teachers," he said.

"We are also stepping up training with existing facilities and even acquiring unused school buildings for teacher training."

However, in spite of all these measures, it would be difficult to beat the teacher shortage because of the rapid expansion of education in the country, he said.

Commenting on the Mara Institute of Technology's plans to set up a college in Malacca, he said his Ministry had not considered the matter yet.

Dr. Mahathir and his wife later called on the Governor Tuu (Dr.) Haji Abdul Aziz bin Haji Abdul Majid.