

DEMOS NOT ONLY

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WAY SAYS DR. M

STAR - 3 MAC 1975

STUDENT demonstrations will not solve the problems facing society except create more problems for the Government, Education Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said today.

The Minister added that it was "wrong" for students to think that they could solve problems by taking to the streets.

Dr. Mahathir was addressing about 500 members from the UMNO Merglembu division at a one-day political and economic seminar at the multi-purpose complex along Jalan Kampung Simee here.

He said: "In a democratic country like ours, we not only allow but also encourage the students, especially those from institutions of higher learning, to take an active interest in politics of the country.

"Unfortunately, the students have mis-used this freedom and privilege which the Government has given them by organising demonstrations, which they think are solutions to the problems presently

IPOH,
Sunday

faced by our society.

"This thinking is wrong as the demonstrations which they hold will never solve any problem, only more so to create more problems for the Government and its people," said Dr. Mahathir.

POWER

Dr. Mahathir noted that many students nowadays had lost their issue of protesting and demonstrating, in the pursuit of "student power."

"In the clamour for student power, the students no longer take into their consideration the conditions prevailing in the country."

"Malaysia is a country that is always sensitive to



DR. MAHATHIR

the needs of her people and as such, it is unwarranted for the students to take such action as to demonstrate against the Government," he added.

The Minister pointed out that the Government had conceded to the wishes of the students within the framework of democracy.

He said that the Government was aware that the students were still in the process of "testing their student power by trying to make the Government bow down to their every whim and fancy."

Dr. Mahathir stressed that the Government had planned long ago to implement the Green Book Plan.

"However, some mischievous students are going round telling the

people, that the Green Book Plan implementation was a result of their demonstrations, in order to gain the support of the majority among the public for their selfish objectives," he said.