

# Mahathir hits at student power seekers

IPOH, Sunday.  
EDUCATION Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, has criticised opportunist student leaders who capitalised on baseless issues to demonstrate the force of the students.

"They feel that they are now a force in this country, not part of a responsible group voicing their opinion to the Government,"

he said today.

"There are also some who think that their power is equivalent to that of the Government. These people are being misled by situations in other countries," he added.

"The issue is not the question. They only want to show their power," the Minister said.

This was shown by the recent demonstrations on the purported starvation issue in Baling. "They wanted to test whether the Government will bow down to them," he said.

Dr. Mahathir who was speaking on student movements and national politics at the Menglembu Umno division's political and economic seminar here, said that he agreed that students should be aware of the political situation in the country.

## Wide freedom

"But this does not mean that they must adopt actions without limitations. No Government in the world can overcome all problems.

He explained that the freedom given to students is wide ranging when compared with that given to those outside the campus.

"This includes the

freedom to publish their own papers, and the right to voice their opinions and hold gatherings.

"But in their paper, they attack the personal lives of other people and condemn the Government and other bodies without any truth in them."

Dr. Mahathir said that some of the student leaders are only interested in power and in telling the people that they cannot be set aside.