

Mahathir gives the demo scholars a chance to explain



DR. MAHATHIR
... a pledge and
an assurance

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thursday.

ALL Government-scholars who took part in December's demonstrations will have a chance to show cause why their scholarships should not be withdrawn, Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

Each case would be treated individually, he said, and gave an assurance that authorities investigating the matter would not arbitrarily take away the scholarships.

He said only those authorities which awarded scholarships could revoke them. The power did not lie with him.

Dr. Mahathir said he was aware that some of the students might be innocent and might have been frightened into demonstrating.

Drastic action must be taken against the real culprits, for they were misusing funds given to them to further their studies, Dr. Mahathir said.

He was not sure how

many students will be asked to show cause, but judging from the number of arrests, about 1,000 allegedly joined in the demonstration in Kuala Lumpur.

The students demonstrated in the capital and elsewhere over alleged starvation in the Baling district and the rising cost of living.