

# Bill aimed at curbing 'arrogant few'

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Fri.** — The Government needs the powers under the new universities Bill to thwart a handful of irresponsible student leaders from turning the other students into "rebels", Education Minister Dr. Mahathir Mohamed said today.

"We have to separate the few arrogant student leaders from the new students to ensure that they (the new students) would not be brain-washed for undesirable activities," he added.

Replying to the debate on the Universities and University College (Amendment) Bill, Dr. Mahathir said the majority of the present students had been "brain-washed" to such an extent, that they refused to accept the realities.

Some of them still believed that hunger was the cause of death of the two children in Baling last December. They claimed that the Government had bribed the parents concerned to tell the people that their children died of illness.

Dr. Mahathir felt that at the moment, university forums would not be beneficial as the students had turned them into a "sort of game" and did not regard them as sessions for serious discussions.

"They attend the forums with a closed mind. If the speakers praised them, they would cheer. Anything against them would be met

with jeers. Very often, they would boo before they listen."

Dr. Mahathir said he had been a victim of their booring and had told the students that he was prepared to be boored, but others might not.

Dr. Mahathir said he agreed that dialogues with students were useful but, lately, he felt that they had no effects as the students come with a closed mind.

The Bill, which was passed, provides for stringent measures and regulations for university students and lecturers.

One amendment provides for the suspension of a student charged with a criminal offence and expulsion if he is found guilty.

## Lecture time

Dr. Mahathir said he was prepared to meet students in small groups to explain why the amendments were necessary.

"In fact, I have already met with a few groups and hope that dialogues will strengthen the student-government relationship."

Some lecturers, Dr. Mahathir said, had also been involved in brain-washing the students for their selfish ends.

"They used the lecture time to indoctrinate the students. One lecturer even went to the extent of warning his students that they would fail if they did not answer the exam questions according to his ideology."

This was very unhealthy and the Government wanted to stop

it, Dr. Mahathir added.

He said he had suspended lectures held after dawn prayers (suhuh) after it was found that they were used to instigate the students against certain Muslim personalities.

He said among the lecturers detained under the Internal Security Act, two were teaching religious studies.

The ministry, he added, would have to be careful, from now on, to ensure that the right people were chosen to teach religious education.

He gave an assurance that he would use the power given to him under the Act judiciously. The Government, he said, had considered the amendments carefully before introducing them.

He would allow students to carry out their fund-raising activities, from time to time, if they were genuine efforts to help others.

Dr. Mahathir said the new powers given to vice-chancellors to appoint deans would prevent politicking among the academic staff in the campuses.

"The present election of deans by the academic staff of the faculties concerned is unhealthy. The smear campaigns have even come to the knowledge of the public."

He said the new law would not cover students in the Mara Institute of Technology or the Ungku Umar Polytechnic in Ipoh.

However, there were other ways to curb any undesirable activities by these students, he