

**MIT:**

**WEAPONS  
FOUND  
IN ROOMS**

**Mahathir  
tells all...**

N.S.T. 19 FEB 1976

KUALA LUMPUR, Wednesday.

# WEAPONS and utensils for drug-taking were among the items seized from rooms of students in the Mara Institute of Technology following its closure last month.

Education Minister Dr. Mahathir bin Mohamed displayed these items at a meeting with PAS Youth members and reporters in his office here today.

Among the items were two kapak kecil a curved knife, a sword, a kris and a walking stick with concealed blade.

Dr. Mahathir also produced two plastic bottles with a tube on the side, similar to a hookah, apparently used for taking drugs. Other items included obscene photographs and a stack of identity cards.

The Minister said there was no guarantee that the weapons would not be used against any other student or member of the staff.

This danger existed because a few students had threatened some of the staff during the recent demonstrations, he added.

He said the pornographic material and the taking of drugs did not conform with the religious intentions of the "Dakwah" (religious) group among the MIT students.

## Criticism

Dr. Mahathir said he was forced to make these disclosures because of the "various issues raised by different quarters through the mass media" and the criticisms against him for his handling of the MIT affair.

He added that he had to take stern action against those students involved because matters could not be allowed to continue as they were.

Among those present at the meeting were the Negri Sembilan Menteri Besar, Datuk Mansor Othman who is also chairman of the Governing Council of the MIT, the MIT director, Datuk Lokman Musa and assistant director, Enck Tahir Mallid.

The PAS delegation

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# Very high failure rate among MIT students: Mahathir

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was led by the Youth vice-president Enck Azahari Hamzah.

Dr. Mahathir said there were more than 7,000 students in the MIT although it could accommodate 4,500 only.

Existing facilities could not cope with the large number of students at the Shah Alam campus. The administrative, academic and security staff were unable to effectively supervise the students.

There were only 116 security guards on the campus and only one warden for each hostel, Dr. Mahathir said.

He added that there were also outsiders who "squatted" in the hostels and made use of facilities.

Students' rooms could

not be checked because they were locked individually by the occupants and the wardens did not have the keys

Dr. Mahathir added: "I will not allow this sort of things to go on unchecked. What would the parents say if they knew that some of the students had weapons with them"

"They would not send their children to the MIT if they knew of this."

Dr. Mahathir said whatever actions he had taken were for the good of the majority of the students, and for the sake of the MIT as an institution to train bumiputras.

## Clean up

He said he could not let students return to the campus now because the conditions there were

not suitable yet. He had ordered Datuk Lokman to clean up the hostels and "put things in order."

Dr. Mahathir dismissed a suggestion for a committee of inquiry to be set up to find out the reasons for the recent demonstrations.

He said a similar committee had been set up after the 1974 demonstration at the MIT.

He added that whatever actions he had taken (or would take) were based on the recommendations of this committee.

The panel, headed by Datuk Abdul Kadir Talib, the Education Ministry's Secretary-General comprises Tan Sri Syed Jafar Albar, Enck Samad Ismail, managing editor of the New Straits Times; Enck Lorraine Osman, chairman of Bernama and Syed Abdullah bin Syed Yahya, also of the Ministry.

Among other things, the committee was given the task of looking into the cause of the demonstrations and the system of campus discipline.

Among its recommendations implemented were the appointment of Datuk Lokman as director, in place of Datuk Arshad Ayub, and the enforcement of the disciplinary regulations.

Dr. Mahathir said the recent demonstrations occurred because the conditions in the campus did not allow the proper enforcement of the committee's recommendations.

## Main aim

Dr. Mahathir said his main aim was to ensure that as many students as possible completed their courses successfully.

He added that the failure rate at the MIT was very high. There were some courses in which not even one student passed.

This was one of the reasons why the troublemakers had to be weeded out, the Minister said.

Datuk Mansor said that so far no one has had the courage to take proper action over the MIT. "When there was dirt, no one took the broom to

sweep it away," he said.

He added that he took the decision to close the MIT because of the severe lack of discipline among the students.

He also said that there was a "lack of understanding" on the part of the students over what was a policy decision and what was an administrative action.

Although the students would be consulted on certain matters it did not mean that they should be consulted each time a decision was made concerning the MIT.

The students' union should not feel that it has the right to administer the MIT, he added.

Datuk Mansor also said that "outside political meddling" must stop. The students, he added, had been used by certain so-called politicians.

Datuk Lokman said that although he had offered to meet student leaders regularly to sort out any problem, they had turned up for only one meeting.