

# A Govt pledge to students going abroad



Dr MAHATHIR . . . assurance

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs.** — The Government has no intention of restricting Malaysians from going abroad for studies, the Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamed, said today.

"The proposal to register all private students going abroad for studies and requiring them to deposit \$1,500 with the Ministry is merely to ensure that only bona fide students go overseas for studies," he said.

The Government wanted to see that Malaysian students overseas did not bring a bad name to the country.

"There have been far too many cases of students going overseas purportedly for studies, but end up in unhealthy activities," Dr. Mahathir said.

Some of them have been involved in drug cases, some breached the conditions by taking up employment or even run their own travel agencies, and some fail their examinations and have no money to return, he added.

"Experience has shown that it is the Malaysian Government who has to bear the costs of fundless students deported by other countries," he said.

He said the Government

would consider suggestions on the subject from the public.

"This \$1,500 figure is not a final decision. We are flexible and will modify conditions to enable the students to pursue studies overseas," Dr. Mahathir added.

The students, too, he said, have a responsibility to uphold the image of the country.

Parents and principals of private schools preparing students for overseas studies had criticised the proposal, first announced in Parliament by Dr. Mahathir last month.