

# Some elements stage demos to side-track real issues

# Dr. M: Face the conse- quences

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By LEONARD PASQUAL

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. — Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today those who carried out actions like demonstrations must be prepared to face the consequences.**

He said certain elements held demonstrations when they could not overcome problems. This was to side-track from the real issues.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir was speaking at the opening of a one-day seminar on national youth policy organised by Umno Youth here.

He said demonstrations were carried out by some students because

The people would live in fear and anarchy if every person acted for his own interest, he said.

the proper channels and the Government had been reasonable in entertaining these requests.

He said Malaysians

In Ipoh, CPO Datuk Seri Yuen Yuet Leng advised students of the Kamunting Vocational Secondary School and the Ungku Omar Polytechnic to resume "normal and approved school activities immediately."

"Those who have defaulted in discipline should be prepared to face the consequences of their actions but they could appeal for sympathetic re-consideration," he said.

There have been no case to date of any criminal breach of the peace to a degree where the police have found it necessary to intervene, he added.

they were afraid to face their examinations as they felt that they would fail.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said letters of appeal were received asking the Government to forgive them.

"If we forgive them for these actions, more may be carried out. Everyone must be responsible for his action and be prepared to face the consequences," he said.

Although the Deputy Prime Minister was not specific, it was apparent that he was referring to last week's demonstration by some students of the Kamunting Vocational Secondary School and the boycotting of classes by students of the Ungku Omar Polytechnic in Ipoh.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said some elements condoned actions like demonstrations so that they could achieve results without considering the people's wishes.

## The message

"Malaysia is a democratic country and the people live in an orderly society with rules and regulations to govern them."

The people could voice their grievances and opinions through the proper channels in accordance with these rules and regulations, he said.

"If there are no channels to voice their grievances, then it would be appropriate to hold demonstrations. But such a situation does not exist in Malaysia," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said.

Some governments were autocratic and did not care for the people's wishes.

In such cases where the voice of the people was not being heard, then possibly demonstrations should be held to get the message across.

He said better results were achieved when grievances and requests were directed through

should value their orderly society which placed no restrictions on the people to voice their opinions if it was done in the proper manner.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir reminded

youth not to be influenced by actions around them, especially those in the West.

He said the actions of American youth such as protests and demonstrations against the establishment, which were at their height during the Vietnam War, had their effect on Malaysian youth who considered these actions appropriate.

However, these actions by American youth were hardly carried out

now but were still in vogue in Malaysia.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said protests and demonstrations were considered out of date by American youth and the youth here should also change their attitude.