

Open university plan under study, says PM

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Government is still studying a proposal to set up an open university despite existing constraints such as the shortage of lecturers and professors in the country, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

However, he said, although the scope of the open university might not be wide, the Government would try as far as possible to set it up.

"One problem we face is that the country needs to

concentrate more on the teaching of technical and engineering subjects which students cannot learn on their own at home unlike languages or fine arts subjects," he told reporters after officiating the 20th Gerakan assembly at the Federal Hotel here.

He said this when asked to comment on Gerakan president Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik's statement (in his speech) that the open university proposal should be supported by all Malaysians.

On the Asean Information Ministers' communique that Asean countries pool their resources to counter biased reporting by the foreign media, Dr Mahathir said such a move would be appropriate although it might not be easy to succeed.

By having an exchange of information within Asean, member countries no longer needed to depend on the foreign media which was more interested in highlighting bad news about Asean countries, he said.