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Mahathir-Social

GOVT ANALYSING SOCIAL PROBLEMS, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

SERDANG, April 3 (Bernama) -- The government is carefully analysing social ills besetting the country and will not rush into making decisions in tackling them, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The magnitude of the problems required in-depth study, he said replying to questions raised by students of renamed Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) at a dialogue during his visit here.

"We can't be hasty in making decisions without analysing the problems before us," he said.

The prime minister was asked about steps the government was taking to deal with social problems especially those confronting the nation's youth.

To a question on the proposed corporatisation of universities, Dr Mahathir reiterated that the move should not be a cause for concern among students and parents.

"The government will be considerate. We'll ensure that such a move will not be burdensome," he said.

The government would also subsidise needy students, he said.

Dr Mahathir explained that the proposed corporatisation of local universities was aimed at checking brain drain as lecturers were increasingly being lured away to the private sector with lucrative offers.

However, he said, he believed not all individuals put money first and he thanked those who chose to remain with the local universities.

The prime minister said the government had no intention of slashing expenditure for education by corporatising local tertiary institutions.

-- BERNAMA

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