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Dr M: Many university lecturers poisoning minds of students

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GURUN, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said many lecturers were poisoning the minds of university students with what he described as ridiculous rhetoric.

The Prime Minister said the problem was prevalent in all universities but particularly acute in the International Islamic University which was set up to aid Muslim students.

"Unfortunately, during the period when somebody was the president there, they had been influenced by this political view," he said.

Dr Mahathir dismissed any form of Government action against the students although they had breached the Universities and University Colleges Act.

If action was taken, the world would claim Malaysia was oppressive and disallowed political freedom, he said.

These people would be allowed to speak to the students although the Government knew they were supported by foreigners, he added.

Some university lecturers also allowed outsiders to enter the campuses, and eat and sleep there before they spoke.

The lecturers, he said, openly encouraged this kind of outside interference because it was impossible for the universities to supervise their activities.

Dr Mahathir said the "poisoning" of the students' minds had a very negative effect.

"Now I find that these students have a closed mind, they have been totally brainwashed by these people who got there and slept there with the students," he said. "If we go there, we will disturb them but these unscrupulous people undermined and brainwashed them, day and night."

Dr Mahathir reminded the students they were spending public money and that the Government subsidised as much as 90 per cent of the cost of their education.

He urged them to return to their books as their examination results had deteriorated.

The poor results were not surprising, given the kind of propaganda, not religious but political, propagated to them, he said.

"The students never get enough sleep," he said. "They can't study and you see their results. To those who were involved in the demonstrations, I want to know how many passed their examinations."

Dr Mahathir acknowledged that the situation may worsen but the Government would try to approach the students and urge them to at least remember "basic human behaviour".

"They are Muslim students," he said, "and while Islam teaches us to be grateful, the students are taught otherwise."

Dr Mahathir said former Abim president Dr Sidik Fadhil was one of the lecturers who had been brainwashing the students. "I got a copy of what he said."

"He was teaching students about Islamic history and he was making a reference to the firau (pharaoh), Namrud, and obviously making a reference to the Government and me. (To them), I am the mahafirau.

"That is the kind of teaching that we get from people with so-called religious knowledge. In Islam, it is quite clear you don't go around accusing people of being a firau because if you do that, you yourself will become one."

Dr Mahathir revealed Sidik's action while addressing Modenas workers and

visitors prior to launching the Modenas Jaguh, the second national motorcycle project, at the company's plant.

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