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PM holds dialogue with dons

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today held a closed-door dialogue on current issues with about 150 academicians from public institutions of higher learning.

The dialogue at the Putra World Trade Centre began at 10am and ended before noon. This was followed by refreshments as Dr Mahathir continued to have informal discussions with the academicians.

The dialogue's main aim was to allow discussions between the Prime Minister and academicians in the wake of criticisms of students and academicians' involvement in political demonstrations.

Present were Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, Deputy Education Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus and Education Ministry higher education department director Professor Dr Hassan Said.

Among the academicians were Universiti Malaya Vice-Chancellor Tan Sri Dr Abdullah Sanusi Ahmad, Universiti Putra Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Professor Tan Sri Syed Jalaluddin Syed Salim and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Ahmad Zaharudin Idrus.

Fourteen panelists represented the public institutions of higher learning.

Ahmad Zaharudin said the dialogue addressed current issues ranging from politics, economics to research and development.

He said Dr Mahathir had stressed the importance of research and development in Malaysia's move towards industrialisation.

Another academician who did not want to be named said the dialogue also touched on healthcare and international relations.

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