

PM: Study aid for poor students in private colleges

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MALACCA: The Government is willing to give scholarships to deserving students in private institutions of higher learning, said Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister said the Government had set up 14 universities and many institutions of higher learning to en-

sure Malaysians had access to education, even if they were not too well off.

"The Government is willing to provide some form of scholarships to help poor private students with good results and who are willing to work hard," he said at the opening of the RM50mil Malacca Manipal

Medical College (MMMC) here yesterday.

He said the country needed more doctors and the setting up of the college was welcomed.

"I am sure this will be a successful venture. I remember very well how the late Datuk K. Pathmanaban worked day

and night to realise the dream of having the Manipal College of Medicine in Malaysia.

"He had worked very hard and received the support of the Malaysian and Indian Governments.

"It is unfortunate that he is not here with us today but the country owes a great deal to

his effort," he added.

Dr Mahathir said that some 15,000 to 20,000 foreign students now come to study in Malaysia.

"I am quite sure that as the reputation of Malaysian institutions grow, as they keep up to the standards, there will be more people coming to Malay-

sia to study."

Dr Mahathir said the Government decided to have twinning arrangements with foreign institutions of higher learning to reduce the cost of education.

"This has worked very well," he said.