

Govt drafting student expulsion pact

By DEVID RAJAH

MALACCA: Students and teaching staff in public universities and institutions of higher learning may be asked to sign an agreement with the Government allowing their expulsion if their performance is not satisfactory.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that the Government was working on the terms of the agreement to prevent students from wasting public funds by not concentrating on studies.

"Those who get scholarships will have to produce results if they want to continue studying," he told reporters at the opening of the Malacca Manipal Medical College here.

He said the students would be required to show they had attended all lectures and done the additional work they were

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required to do.

"I admit that some of them are serious but a lot of them are not and are wasting our time and money.

"We will have a proper agreement with them ... We are working on it," he said.

"They have to be more disciplined. We find students not dressed properly, wearing slippers and just about anything else they like during lectures.

"If they do not fully utilise the opportunities and money spent on them, it is necessary for the Government to kick them out of university," he added.

"We spend more money on students than we do on government employees. If they are studying medicine, we spend huge sums of money ... as much as RM60,000 a year for a student.

"At RM60,000 a year, we can

pay a senior civil servant RM5,000 a month," he said.

He said the Government was warning about the serious lack of discipline in local universities.

He said that teachers and lecturers also had to deliver the kind of service required of them.

"If they are more interested in activities other than teaching, they are welcome to leave," he said.

On another issue, Dr Mahathir said the reason Malaysia was unable to attract local professionals working in foreign countries was the higher incomes that they earned there.

"Sometimes, they are given other benefits like share options."

He said the recent return of 300 professionals and experts was an achievement for the country.