

Ministers to meet over youth decadence

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PUTRAJAYA: The Cabinet, seriously concerned over the increasing tendency among the youth to be involved in violence and morally-corrupt activities, will hold a special meeting on Aug 8 to discuss the problem.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government wanted to know why the young were so easily distracted from their studies by getting involved in undesirable activities.

The special meeting, he said, would only involve Cabinet members, but would take into consideration inputs from various ministries and other interested parties, including non-governmental organisations.

"We have been discussing this problem in the Cabinet, including the involvement of the youth in what is called the black metal groups.

"But because of the unusual tendencies among the young today to be involved in all

kinds of undesirable activities, the Cabinet decided to hold a special session specifically to discuss this problem," he told reporters after a closed-door dialogue with the board of directors of the Malaysian Industry-Government Group for High Technology at his office yesterday.

He said the special session would not be confined to the latest inclination among the young to be involved in the black metal group, but the whole aspect of social problems affecting them.

Asked if the Cabinet had received the full report of the probe on the cause of the fire which razed University Malaya's Dewan Tunku Canselor late last month, Dr Mahathir said it had, but the report was deemed inconclusive.

He said the three parties involved in the probe — Fire and Rescue Services Department, the Chemistry Department and the police, could not agree on the actual cause of the fire.