

# Dr M warns militant groups

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will deal severely with groups spreading their militant leanings to institutions of higher learning in this country, the Prime Minister warned yesterday.

The alert comes in the wake of reports that a militant *jihād* group has emerged at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).

"This thing seems to be on the increase. We need to control the situation," Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said to reporters at the end of a one-day visit to Ipoh.

Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said any militant *jihād* at the campuses should be firmly dealt with.

"The Government hopes all institutions of higher learning will jointly ensure that there are no elements in their midst who will bring chaos to

this country," he told reporters after opening a workshop here.

The disclosure of the group's emergence was made by UUM Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohd Basri on Thursday, quoting a paper at a seminar organised by the Jemaah Islah Malaysia (JIM) in Penang last year.

Dr Ahmad Fawzi claimed that the seminar promoted *jihād* for the setting up of an Islamic state, including the use of force and weapons.

Yesterday, Dr Ahmad Fawzi said he had given information and documents to the police.

He has also barred UUM students from the seminars without permission.

He said five UUM lecturers were being investigated in relation to their action to undermine the government when delivering lectures.