

Govt to remove inciters from varsities

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LANGKAWI: The Government will identify those involved in inciting university students and rout them out of universities, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

He said they were mostly people who were supposed to be teaching religion but were teaching politics instead.

"If they are staff of universities, we have to put a stop to that," Dr Mahathir told reporters after inspecting several projects here.

He was asked to comment on a news report yesterday in which a former Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) student claimed the existence of a systematic underground movement at local universities which influenced the political stand of Malay students to egg them to topple the Government.

"We had expected such efforts. When we incite sentiments of young people, they will find their own ways to achieve their aims and if they have to use force, they will do so," said Dr Mahathir.

"That is the danger of inciting sentiments among

the people that this Government is apparently not Islamic, *kafir* (infidel) and led by a *dajal* (evil one) which are baseless claims."

He said the Government was aware that many students were more interested in campaigning for the Opposition than studying, wasting public funds.

On claims that the underground movement used religious functions as a front for their activities, Dr Mahathir said nobody dared to stop activities cloaked in religion.

"Because if you stopped them, they say you are not Islamic. So the authorities dare not stop them," he said.

When it was pointed out that many Malay students were involved, Dr Mahathir noted that bad things often involved the Malays such as drug addiction, student demonstrations, lack of interest in studies and low passing rates.

"What has happened? Their performance was not so bad in the past. During my time, we really studied hard. Those who are in senior positions in the government now were those who did not get opportunities in the past but fully used the opportunities they got after Merdeka," he added.