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#### Ensuring student seriousness

M. Jeffri Razali

MALACCA, Tues. - The Government will draw up a proper agreement with both university students and lecturers to ensure their seriousness in acquiring and imparting knowledge so as not to waste public money, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

Voicing his concern about the lack of discipline among university students, Dr Mahathir said today the Government was serious about the matter and prepared to take action. He said the Government was spending billions of ringgit on education and a lot was wasted, especially on Malay students who did not seem keen on studying.

"These are the people who are wasting our time and money. We cannot afford to have people who are not interested in education... fooling around and wasting our time and money. The Government is giving due warning that we will be very serious about the lack of discipline in universities and we will take action that may not popular," he said.

To overcome this, Dr Mahathir said the Government is studying the possibility of entering into a proper agreement with students to ensure they carry out their responsibilities as students.

He said: "We want to know how many times they attend lecture, what their results are, are they doing the additional projects that are required of them.

"The Government is spending a lot of money on them, for example about RM60,000 a year on a medical student.

"We expect them to make full use of it, otherwise we do not see any reason why we should spend a huge sum of money for them just to pass through university.

"There are some who say they do not want to hear about how the Government is spending money on them, but we are going to make ourselves heard to them."

Dr Mahathir said this during the opening of the Melaka-Manipal Medical College.

Apart from students, Dr Mahathir also issued a verbal warning to lecturers who were not carrying out their duties as prescribed.

He said there were lecturers who were not interested in teaching the students but in spreading their political views.