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Good conduct ruling from 2002

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Education Ministry wants to implement the ruling requiring undergraduates and lecturers to sign an agreement of good conduct from next year to ensure their seriousness in acquiring and imparting knowledge.

Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad said the agreement, which would be the same for all public universities, would be in the form of a contract between either the student or lecturer and their respective universities.

"For students, the contract will stipulate what they should do or else face expulsion or other types of disciplinary action. They should, for instance, attend lectures diligently and maintain a certain score in their examinations.

"There will be a separate contract for lecturers, which will also stipulate what they should do.

"We are working out this agreement now from the legal point of view and plan to implement it by the next academic session," he said after the Ministry's post-Cabinet meeting today.

Asked who would monitor whether students attended lectures or adhered to the other requirements in the agreement, Musa said monitoring would be conducted by the respective universities.

The requirements in the agreement will not overlap with the existing provisions in the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 which govern discipline. "The agreement will be more general in nature compared to the Act."

Musa likened the agreement to a contract signed between a scholarship holder and an organisation offering the scholarship.

"The organisation will insist on good performance. If the student does not get good grades, the scholarship will be withdrawn."

Asked whether there would be a provision in the agreement expressly forbidding students from participating in anti-government activities, Musa said it had yet to be discussed.

The formulation of the agreement is necessary as many students do not realise they have responsibilities.

"They have responsibilities as students. The Government funds 90 per cent of their studies."

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said a proper agreement with both university students and lecturers would be drawn up.

This is so that public money would not be wasted.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was spending billions of ringgit on education and a lot was wasted, especially on Malay students who did not seem to be interested in studying.