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Mahathir-Agreement

GOVT TO HAVE PROPER AGREEMENT WITH STUDENTS, SAYS MAHATHIR

MELAKA, July 17 (Bernama) -- The government is going to 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, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"We find that taking disciplinary action is very difficult because the term of their engagement is not very clear.

"We will have a proper agreement with them and now we are working on it," he said.

The prime minister was speaking at a news conference after opening the Melaka-Manipal Medical College (MMMC) at Batu Hampar in Bukit Baru here.

Dr Mahathir said the government was frequently unable to act against students and lecturers who did not actually deliver what they undertook to give.

He said the government spent billions of ringgit on education and then found that a lot of money was being wasted " especially by Malay students who do not seem to want to study at all".

"Yes, I admit that some of them are serious but a lot of them are not serious. They have no business staying in universities because they are wasting time and money," Dr Mahathir said.

He said the proposed agreement would have a mechanism that enables the government to determine how frequent undergraduates attend lectures and appraise acceptable performance in examinations, among other things.

" If they fail they will be asked to leave the university as we cannot afford them," Dr Mahathir said.

He said students would now have to be well-prepared in order to face future challenges.

Dr Mahathir also criticised some lecturers for their disinterest in teaching the students but chose to spread their political views instead.

"We cannot afford to pay them to spread their (anti-government) political views," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir said some students and lecturers were unhappy with the government as they felt they deserved greater freedom in the university.

" They can have their freedom outside the university," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government was serious about providing the people access to higher education.

" We are now having more than 600 private institutions and 14 public universities," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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