

PM: Action by Pas-led Government cruel

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PORT DICKSON, Mon. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today described as "utmost cruelty" the sacking of Terengganu Advanced Technical Institute (Tati) chief executive officer Professor Dr Mohamed Zaki Abdul Muin.

Dr Mahathir said the action showed that the Opposition was willing to go to the extreme to vent its dissatisfaction.

He said if the Barisan Nasional Government had acted similarly, it would have been showered with all kinds of abuses.

"They (Pas) do not have any pity for those who oppose them there,

(when we were in power) we still paid their salaries, kept them in the Government but when it (Pas) came to power, there's no more sympathy ... this is cruelty," he told the media after attending a passing-out parade of army recruits at the Army Basic Training Centre here.

The Prime Minister was asked about the sacking of Dr Mohamed Zaki by the Terengganu Government last Thursday for allegedly disobeying its directives.

It was reported that his alleged offences included not handing over the special payment which Tati had received from the Federal Govern-

ment to the State Government.

Asked on the Terengganu Government's directive to all educational institutions in the State which received the special payment to hand over the money, Dr Mahathir said this showed that the Pas-led State Government was under extreme pressure.

"If they take the money, it is considered *haram*, they are taking something which is not theirs."

On the BN candidate for the Indera Kayangan by-election, Dr Mahathir said he had yet to receive a proposal from the MCA.

"When I get it, I will decide," he added.