

# Difficult to stop brain drain from

country  
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says PM

LONDON: Overseas perks and better incomes make it difficult to stop the brain drain from Malaysia, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said.

"We can't have a situation that is ideal to one person," he said in reply to a student who blamed "protectionist policies" for the legal brain drain, which she said could be overcome with a more liberalised atmosphere.

"Malaysia provides a good place to work. The cost of living is lower than that of developed countries," said Dr Mahathir, acknowledging that some overseas-trained professionals might not like certain government policies.

On a related issue concerning some British-trained doctors on armed forces scholarships who wanted to quit because they were unhappy with their conditions of service, Dr Mahathir urged them to be patient.

He called on them to "make sacrifices" and continue to serve the armed forces as their contribution to the country.

He also said that while all Malaysians enjoyed the same status as citizens of the country, the Government had to take affirmative action to help bumiputras overcome their handicaps.

"The NEP (New Economic Policy) has proven to be the right course of action as it has ensured peace and stability (in the country)."