

# PM: We make no apologies

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## ‘Good conduct pledge needed for country’

LONDON, Mon. — The Government introduced the good conduct pledge for civil servants and university students to make them accountable for the money which they receive in salaries and subsidised fees.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Government servants were paid by the Government, and students were subsidised by taxpayers for their education.

“The pledge is to ensure that people are responsible for what they receive. If people are irresponsible, they are inviting more regulations. If they are responsible, there may be no need for the pledge but I think it is good for the country. We make no apologies for it,” he said to a question at a dialogue with Malaysian students in Britain on Sunday.

Dr Mahathir said even Ministers signed the pledge and there was no reason to exempt students who were receiving subsidised education.

University fees, he added, were only one-ninth of the actual cost of the education.

As for civil servants, he said

there were some who wanted to be paid by the Government while using their position to undermine it because of their political beliefs.

He said if they disagreed with the Government, they could resign their jobs.

Touching on the Universities and University Colleges Act, he said it did not prevent students from holding intellectual discussions about the country and its politics.

To another question on race relations, he said all Malaysians had the same citizenship rights, but the Government had to look after those who were handicapped by the disparity in development.

He said the process was not yet completed, but Malaysia has achieved stability and has a better record on race relations than many other countries.

“In anywhere (in the world), you will find things that you can’t agree with. You have to take the good with the bad,” he said.

Earlier in his speech, he told the students they had much to contribute to ensure that Malaysia retained its independence and continued to progress.

“That is the hope of the present generation of leaders. We can’t live forever, we have to hand over authority to you all, although there’s

only one vacancy for Prime Minister.

“All of you have the means, ability and power to contribute towards development of the country

and its growing role in international affairs,” he told the over 600 students at the dialogue held at Imperial College.