

# Embassy to check Al Azhar entrants

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**CAIRO:** Malaysian students coming to study at the Al Azhar University will soon be required to go through the embassy here to ensure only genuine scholars are admitted.

The Prime Minister's Religious Advisor Tan Sri Abdul Hamid Othman said this was among the issues discussed at the meeting between Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar Dr Mohammad Sayed Tantawi

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here yesterday. Abdul Hamid said the Prime Minister had conveyed the Government's concern over the trend among recent graduates of the university to indulge in undesirable activities upon their return.

"Dr Mahathir told the Grand Sheikh that the institution had in the past produced Malaysian graduates who had contributed immensely to nation-building.

"However, he said some Malaysian students do not

come here for the purpose of education but with other motives. And when they return, they openly show their dissatisfaction and teach in SARs (private community religious schools) and poison the minds of young Malays," he told Malaysian journalists after the meeting yesterday.

Dr Mohammad Sayed on his part assured the prime minister that Al Azhar's education system had always been moderate and was not extremism-based, said Abdul Hamid.