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Dr Mahathir criticises ungrateful undergrads

Abdul Razak Ahmad; Alina Simon; Sheridan Mahavera
JITRA, Sun. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today hit out at some University of Malaya undergraduates whom he said were ungrateful and risked having their scholarships and loans revoked if they failed to produce good results.

Describing such students as being more interested in becoming politicians than their studies, Dr Mahathir said they were wasting the people's money and dishonouring their promises to the people.

"There are students in UniversityMalaya who are not interested in studying. They are more politicians than students, and they are wasting the people's money.

"If they don't get good results we will revoke their scholarships as they have reneged on their promise to the people who have given them a lot of money so that they can study," Dr Mahathir said in his speech at a meet-the-people session in Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Banai, here today.

It was reported yesterday that pro-opposition student candidates had won 26 out of 39 seats in UniversityMalaya's campus elections.

Dr Mahathir added that there were also students who spread lies and slandered the Government which gave them aid, by calling the Government un-Islamic and evil.

He said although the act of giving aid was Islamic, these students had been taught not to be grateful and to consider the aid as a birthright.

"I urge these students to go and study elsewhere, such as in east coast States where there is no aid," he said to applause from the audience.

On another matter, Dr Mahathir said parents had themselves to blame if their children ended up facing the gallows for serious crimes, as they were responsible for nurturing good values in their offspring.

The Prime Minister warned parents that their children would grow up to be drug dealers, gangsters and murderers if they spoiled and turned a blind eye to their involvement in gangsterism.

"Imagine your children being on death row one day. Imagine that one day your children are sentenced to death by hanging. This is because they grew up without being able to differentiate right from wrong," he said.

Relating his experiences while growing up, Dr Mahathir said his mother would beat him if he fought with others, irrespective of whether he was wrong or right.

He said he was not encouraging parents to beat their children, but to discipline them and not spoil them.

"And it's those who are spoiled who end up committing crimes and face the death sentence."

Dr Mahathir, accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, arrived at 9.45am at the Sultan Abdul Halim airport in Kepala Batas, Alor Star, for a one-day visit to his Kubang Pasu parliamentary constituency.

He was greeted by more than 1,500 people comprising State Barisan Nasional leaders and Kedah State Executive Councillors. Also present to receive him was Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Syed Razak Syed Zain.

Dr Mahathir and Dr Siti Hasmah then visited the Jitra Specialist Centre to distribute 12 hampers to patients and women who had just given birth.

The Prime Minister also had a meet-the-people session at Sekolah Kebangsaan Tunjang in Jitra, where he handed RM100 worth of hampers and cash to 60 senior citizens and RM100 to 130 orphans from the Kubang Pasu area.

