

# Academia to be briefed on issues raised by Dr M

KUALA LUMPUR: Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed will meet students and academics from local public universities soon to explain the issues raised by former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"This is to avoid any misperception or misunderstanding among students and ensure that the academia is well-informed on current issues," said Mustapa.

He was speaking to reporters yesterday after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Open University Malaysia and Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd to develop local executives.

The issues raised included the Government's decision to scrap the Johor bridge, the sale of Proton's foreign venture and MV Agusta Motors SpA, the issuance of approved permits for car imports and why Proton Holdings Bhd chief executive officer Tan Sri Tengku Mahaleel Tengku Ariff's contract was allowed to lapse.

Various ministers and government officials had already replied comprehensively to Dr Mahathir's questions.

The Higher Education Ministry is collating all the relevant information before meeting students and academics for an open Q&A to quash any doubts among the academia.

This is the second time Mustapa is to have an open dialogue on current issues with undergraduates and lecturers since he took office almost a year ago.

Last week, Dr Mahathir levelled his strongest criticism yet against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, accusing him of dismantling many of his policies and projects.

The former prime minister, however, maintained that he was not picking a fight with Abdullah or the Government, but merely wanted answers to questions on policies dropped by the current administration.