

Don't be exploited as tools for other people's agenda, PM tells varsity students

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PUTRAJAYA: Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has cautioned university students against letting certain quarters use them as tools to further their agendas and for their personal gain.

He said if students were seen as tools for such groups, the public would not respect them as future leaders.

To prevent this, he said students should refrain from making decisions based on emotions or due to coercion by others.

"If this can be done, no one can question the students' credibility and position," said Dr Mahathir before chairing the 2019 National Students Consultative Council (MPPK) meeting here yesterday.

He said the government, via the

Education Ministry, was undertaking efforts to provide greater freedom for university students.

"Greater freedom must be coupled with a reasonable level of responsibility. There must be good values and a high level of integrity.

"Otherwise, our freedom will be meaningless."

Dr Mahathir said university

students must place the value of integrity on a par with the value of being rational.

"By doing so, subsequent actions will be founded on good values and the people's cultural norms."

He said MPPK could help prepare university students to become future leaders.

MPPK, he said, offered stu-

dents invaluable early exposure that helped them decipher and evaluate matters from various angles.

"Mistakes made in decision-making will have a huge impact on the nation's wellbeing. In this respect, MPPK is the best medium to educate university students against making hasty decisions."