

**Dr Mahathir Says Public Needs PCA For Their Safety**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 27 (Bernama) -- Former prime minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Prevention of Crime (Amendment and Extension) Bill 2013 is needed in Malaysia for public safety and crime prevention.

He said the 'harsh law' would help to prevent cases such as rampant shooting after the Emergency Ordinance was repealed.

"I think this country for a time will need that kind of harsh law.

"The moment we removed the law, you see what happened because people are not that developed and educated to appreciate the law," he said after presenting scholarship awards to Jeffrey Cheah Foundation recipients at Sunway University near here today.

The Prevention of Crime (Amendment and Extension) Bill 2013 was tabled for first reading in Parliament by Home Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi on Wednesday.

The amendments allow for serious crime suspects to be detained without trial.

Meanwhile, Dr Mahathir said the emergence of many private institutions of higher education had provided more place for students to pursue studies at the university level.

Besides this, they also helped the government to reduce its load on higher education which was in high demand now.

"(This has led Malaysia to become an education hub for foreign students because of the lower cost but with standards comparable to advance countries," he said.

A total of 501 students received the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation Scholarships.

The amount awarded in 2013 was RM17.2 million which brings the total scholarships awarded to-date by the foundation to more than RM132 million.

Also present were Dr Mahathir's wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and founding trustee of the foundation, Tan Sri Dr Jeffrey Cheah.

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