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KUALA LUMPUR, DEC. 3 (BERNAMA) -- EDUCATION MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED CALLED ON STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATED HERE TODAY TO GIVE THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO THEY CLAIMED DIED OF STARVATION AT BALING IN KEDAH.

HE SAID THAT IF THERE WERE INDEED FAMILIES WHO DIED OF STARVATION AS THE STUDENTS ALLEGED, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT SUCH A THING DID NOT RECUR.

HE TOLD REPORTERS THAT HE HAD NOT RECEIVED ANY REPORT OF ANY DEATH FROM STARVATION AT BALING.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD MET THE STUDENTS WHO MADE SUCH A CLAIM. THEY HAD +KEPT SILENT+ WHEN HE ASKED THEM THE NAMES OF THGE SO-CALLED VICTIMS.

HE WARNED THEM THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION AGAINST ANYONE WHO BROKE THE LAW.

REFERRING TO STUDENTS WHO HAD TAKEN REFUGE AT MASJID NEGARAN HE SAID A MOSQUE WAS A PLACE OF WORSHIP, AND NOT AN ASYLUM FOR WRONG-DOERS. --BERNAMA 1627/LK