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Najib - demonstration

UNDERGRADUATES INVOLVED CAN BE EXPELLED, SAYS EDUCATION MINISTER

PEKAN, April 5 (Bernama) -- Undergraduates involved in yesterday's anti-Israel demonstration in Kuala Lumpur could be expelled from their respective universities, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said the university disciplinary committee will meet soon and those involved should be prepared to accept their punishment.

"They are jeopardising their own future. If they are suspended or expelled from the university, it is because of their own doing," he told reporters after opening the Sekolah Kebangsaan Runchang, here.

Najib said the Universities and University Colleges Act has made it clear that undergraduates are not allowed to take part in demonstration and those who do will face police action as well as from their universities.

Some 250 undergraduates said to be from several universities joined 1,500 Pas members in a demonstration, protesting the participation of the Israeli team in the ongoing International Cricket Council (ICC) Trophy.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has described it as an act of stupidity, frustrating government's effort to show the Israelis that Muslims are rational and sensible people.

Najib regretted the involvement of the undergraduates in the incident.

"We must show that Islam in Malaysia is progressive and tolerance," he said.

He said the undergraduates should not be confused because the government not only does not support Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu but also does not agree with Netanyahu's confrontation and unrealistic attitude. -- BERNAMA

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