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Leaders advise the public not to take part in any illegal demonstration

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Deputy Education Minister Datuk Khalid Yunus today advised university students not to be involved in street demonstrations as they were not suitable to solve problems in this modern era any more.

He said the situation in Malaysia was not similar to that in Indonesia.

He was speaking to reporters after opening a silat competition at the International Islamic University.

Asked if the Education Ministry had received reports of university students being involved in demonstrations and in the so-called reform movement of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he said there were none.

Kuala Lumpur Police Chief Datuk Kamaruddin Ali is reported to have said that four students, one each from the Institut Teknologi Mara, International Islamic University, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Kolej Sedaya were among 29 detained for allegedly taking part in an illegal assembly in support of Anwar at the Dataran Merdeka yesterday.

In Shah Alam, Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said today Malaysians must refrain from getting involved in illegal ceramahs, assemblies and demonstrations.

He said every responsible citizen should help to ensure political, social and economic stability.

Abu Hassan said Anwar's supporters who held demonstrations were not only disrupting the country's peace, but was also tarnishing its good name.

He said this at the opening of the Selangor Village Safety and Development Committee seminar themed "Together Towards the 21st century".

Abu Hassan said although there were two gatherings in Selangor by Anwar's supporters, the situation was under control.

"We have identified six Umno members from the Tanjung Karang and Kuala Selangor Umno divisions, involved in holding the illegal ceramahs and their names will be submitted to the Umno supreme council for action," he said.

He also urged all 1,200 JKKK leaders and members from 77 villages in Selangor present at the seminar to ensure that their villagers do not get involved in these illegal activities and be influenced by rumour mongers.

He said parents should advise their children against getting involved in illegal activities as they might be arrested.

In Malacca, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Abu Zahar Isnin advised the people not to attend the illegal gathering planned by Anwar's supporters in Kuala Lumpur tomorrow.

Speaking to reporters after launching the Chief Minister's Department 'Family Day celebrations' at the Malacca Zoo, Abu Zahar, who is also the State Umno chairman, said he hoped Anwar's supporters would be calm and not be dictated by their feelings.

In Muar, Menteri Besar and Umno supreme council member Datuk Abdul Ghani Othman urged Anwar's supporters not to create trouble through demonstrations at public places and in mosques.

Opening a RM100,000 multi-purpose hall at SRJK(C) Chung Hwa in Belemang here yesterday, Ghani, who is also the Johor Umno chief, said: "Our grassroot leaders are going all out to win the confidence of non-members. We do not want them to be influenced by irresponsible persons and the foreign media."

Ghani said the party would not hesitate to refer any of its members to the Umno Disciplinary Committee if they were found to be involved in

activities detrimental to the party and security of the country.

He called on Malaysians to stay united and support Dr Mahathir and the Barisan Nasional Government for continued peace and prosperity.

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