

27 JUN 1998

Najib

VOICE VIEWS THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS, NAJIB TELLS STUDENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 27 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today assured students they are free to express and get the government's attention to their views in an orderly manner and through proper channels.

"We don't curb students desiring to forward views and suggestions to the government and I hope students will make use of the available channels to get the government to attend to them," he said.

Najib said this when reporters approached him on the state of the students' movement in Malaysia after he closed the third leadership seminar for undergraduates here.

According to Najib, there was no inclination on the part of Malaysian students to initiate moves for reforms as was the case in Indonesia in the light of the current economic problems.

"I notice the absence of the inclination in our students to resort to doing things like what had happened in Indonesia because they have generally accepted that our policies and systems are already sound.

"If at all there are dissatisfaction, it may have to do with some aspects of implementation," Najib said.

Najib said the authorities were constantly monitoring developments abroad and keeping tab on external elements trying to undermine national security by inciting students against the government.

The minister said this in the context of yesterday's disclosure by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Home Minister, that Indonesian student leaders were being brought to Malaysia to instigate local students.

Najib said calm prevailed in all local public universities and there were no incidents that were a cause for concern or that could prompt students to undertake moves to destabilise order.

Dr Mahathir, who delivered a key-note address at the seminar yesterday, reminded students to be discerning and not to be taken in by external influences out to turn them against the government by raising issues of nepotism, cronyism and corruption.

Asked on news reports of Indonesian opposition leader Amien Rais' impending trip to Malaysia, Najib said: "I don't know the development but we hope students here would differentiate between what happened in Indonesia and what is happening in Malaysia."

In a statement yesterday, the International Movement for a Just World (JUST) said Amien Rais was scheduled to speak on "Democracy and Reformations in Indonesia" at a Universiti Malaya forum here on July 10.

-- BERNAMA

HS rn