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Najib-Students

EXPRESS GROUSES THROUGH PROPER CHANNELS, STUDENTS TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- University students should make use of constructive programmes to voice their dissatisfaction on current issues instead of resorting to unlawful means like demonstrations, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said these programmes should be vetted by the university authorities and be held in a conducive environment.

"We do not need a speaker's corner, but we can draw up suitable programmes to update them on current developments in a disciplined and decorous manner," he told reporters after the ministry's post-Cabinet meeting here.

Najib said this when asked to comment on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that university students were now more interested in national politics than studies resulting in many of them not doing well academically.

He also said the government would not hesitate to act firmly against errant students, such as expelling them or withdrawing their scholarships.

Asked whether similar actions would be taken against Malaysian students overseas, Najib said this was up to their sponsors.

"In fact, actions have been taken against some," he said.

On Sunday's fire at Sekolah Menengah Kulai Besar in Johor Baharu, Najib said it was up to the police to take the necessary action.

"Work to repair the damage is being done by the ministry and the Public Works Department, and is expected to cost RM300,000," he said.

In the incident, a block housing nine classrooms, a staff room and a printing room was gutted.

Police have arrested six suspects aged between 16 and 18, including two Form Four students of the school, in connection with the fire.

-- BERNAMA

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