

13 JUL 1999

Khalil-Students

STUDENTS SHOULD BE OPEN-MINDED, SAYS KHALIL

KUALA LUMPUR, July 13 (Bernama) -- Students should be open-minded on any political issue, said Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob today.

He said that if the students had formed their own conclusion regarding an issue then any attempt by the government to explain the issue would not be of any good.

"They should be objektif or else it would be difficult for us to give ceramah because they have already form their own conclusion," he told reporters after a session with artiste Dahlan Zainuddin Biduan, here.

Khalil, who is also Umno secretary-general, said that as future leaders, the students should not be biased and pre-judged others without hearing their side of the stories.

He was asked to comment on the action of a group of Universiti Malaya students yesterday who were unhappy with Mohd Noh Omar, who represented Umno, in a debate with the students.

Mohd Noh, the Member of Parliament for Tanjung Karang, was criticised for failing to explain why Umno did not allow Umno Club to be set up in local universities.

Also taking part in the debate were Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) Information Chief Ruslan Kassim and PAS Youth leader Mahfuz Omar.

Khalil also said Umno took serious view on death threat made against several of its leaders and would not hesitate to take necessary action as precautionary measures.

"We are about to face the election...we don't know the state of condition these people are in, maybe they are desperate and will be resorting to certain measures," he said of the death threat including against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said the matter had been assigned to a committee entrusted with investigating it. "The important thing is precautionary measures must be taken."

Earlier, Khalil spent about half an hour with the veteran singer who is celebrating his 25th year in the entertaintment world.

Dahlan won the Bintang RTM in 1975 and rose to fame with his song "Kisah Seorang Biduan".

During the function, he rendered the song and two others for the guests.

--BERNAMA

nm abg