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**Stay away from Aug 4
planned gathering: P M**

KOTA KINABALU, Fri: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has advised the people to stay away from a gathering which supporters of Datuk Seri **Anwar Ibrahim** are planning to hold here on Aug 4, the day the High Court is expected to deliver its verdict on **Anwar's sodomy case**.

"Don't respond to their calls," the Prime Minister told a news conference at the end of his three-day visit to Sabah.

He said the holding of such gatherings will affect the economy, especially the livelihood of petty traders who do business by the roadside.

"This is one process which will **victimise** poor people," Mahathir said when asked to comment on the plans by **Anwar's** supporters as posted on the Internet.

Mahathir also lamented the involvement of some students of public institutions of higher learning in demonstrations when their counterparts in private institutions are more concerned about their studies.

In **MALACCA**, the Education Ministry warns teachers and students not to participate in the gathering

because they may face disciplinary action if the **gathering** is later deemed **illegal**.

Deputy Minister Datuk Hon **ChoonKim** said disciplinary action will include a warning, sacking or expulsion.

"I want to remind teachers and students not to get involved in activities which are prohibited by law . . . activities which could affect the security and harmony of the country," he said after officiating the ground-breaking ceremony for the SM Tinggi Cina's new wing in Bachang today.

Apart from the ministry's Standing Orders, he said students in **the** higher institutions will have to abide by the provisions in the Universities and University Colleges Act.

Home Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah **Ahmad** Badawi has warned **Anwar's** supporters that action would be taken against them if they assemble unlawfully on Aug 4.

Yesterday, **Inspector-General** of Police Tan Sri **Norian Mai** also urged **Anwar's** supporters not to do anything that could threaten the country's peace and security.