

# Abide by the law, students told

By JACQUELINE ANN SURIN

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded students that they are not above the law and will have to face action if they are found to be involved in activities detrimental to national security.

"It is the police who determine which law to use but I think this is more in relation to security rather than a Universities and University Colleges Act offence," he told reporters when asked to comment on the arrest of Institut Kemahiran Mara student Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin under the ISA on Thursday.

Dr Mahathir said the Government was not stifling students' voices but the law would be used against them if they took part in any activity which threatened security.

On the six Syi'a Muslims who were arrested under the ISA last year and early this year, he said he was not aware that they were from that school of thought.

"Perhaps they were detained for propagating an Islamic teaching that was deviant and caused a lot of problems," he added after launching the country's first fully Islamic-based radio station *Ikim.fm* at the Institute of Islamic Understanding Malaysia (Ikim).

Earlier, Dr Mahathir said despite wrong perceptions about Islam among non-Muslims

who sometimes equated it with terrorism, the religion advocated understanding and peace among people.

"The religion does not prevent Muslims from dealing with others. In fact, it requires Muslims to acknowledge that there are people from different religions," he said.

"Just because they are not Muslims does not mean they are our enemies or that we don't deal with them."

Dr Mahathir said although Islam accepted various interpretations, some Muslims were so fixed in their views that they questioned the religious convictions of other Muslims who did not share the same interpretation.

To a question later, Dr Mahathir said he was not singling out PAS as the party which was creating misconceptions of Islam.

"There is evidence that because of political interests, they purposely misinterpret Islam. This has led to people believing their misinterpretation," he said, adding that this was against the teachings of Islam.

Talking on *Ikim.fm*, Ikim chairman Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji said the station wanted to attract not just Muslim listeners but non-Muslims as well.

"The programmes will highlight the universality of Islam. We will promote programmes which show that Islamic principles are universal and not anti-thetical to

non-Muslims' religious beliefs," he said.

Ahmad Sarji said the programmes would also touch on lesser known aspects of Islamic civilisation, including anecdotes of how Prophet Muhammad had been very toler-

ant of non-Muslims.

"If non-Muslim listeners perceive us as universal, they will like our radio station. If we start bombarding them with programmes meant only for Muslims, they will switch off," he said.

The 24-hour radio station, which will showcase programmes in English, Malay and Arabic, was yesterday also endorsed by the *Malaysia Book of Records* as the first of its kind in the country.

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