

Watch it, Rais warns student activists

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By **Claudia Theophilus**

PUTRAJAYA, Mon: Students involved in "Jakarta-style" activism will be answerable to the government for their violent actions or crimes, Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim warned today.

He said students are wrong to think they can get away with "undemocratic and illegal means of eliminating problems" as the government will eventually catch up with them.

He also revealed that groups in Jakarta and Malaysia were in "constant communication and constant revamp of ideas through the Internet and other intermediaries".

"If students are going to follow the Jakarta-style of eliminating problems

through student power, forget it. We will be very strict and very typical of the past use of the ISA.

"Don't think that the Malaysian government is so lame that it cannot take care of law and order in the country," he said when asked to comment on the recent detention of two university students under the ISA.

Last Friday, Universiti Malaya Students Representative Council president Mohamad Fuad Ikhwan and student activist Khairul Anwar Ahmad Zainuddin of Mara Vocational Institute were held under the ISA.

Stating that the last straw which broke the camel's back was the burning down of Universiti Malaya's Dewan Tunku Canselor (DTC), he said "life will not be easy for those who have ill intentions about our institu-

tions".

Asked how the students can be linked to the DTC fire when the report is not ready, he said: "We only know so much. I'm sure the police know better. They've been doing this kind of work for so many years.

"So, let them do their job first. I don't want to contradict them," he said, adding that the whole story will be out soon.

Rais also hoped that if it (the students' involvement) could be proven, the matter will be subjected to the normal laws.

He said vice-chancellors should understand the provisions of the Universities and University Colleges Act as this will ensure that certain aspects of university administration, like the right of a student to be heard before the Senate Committee, are fulfilled.