

# Lax enforcement of law to blame, says Rais

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**KUALA LUMPUR, Mon:** Those empowered to enforce the Universities and University Colleges Act 1972 (UUCA) are either ignorant of their duties or are intentionally not doing their job.

Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Seri Utama Dr Rais Yatim said the lax enforcement of the act has led to the flourishing of the underground student movements.

He said action should be taken under the UUCA that provides stern penalties, including expulsion, for students indulging in political activities.

"From now on, the UUCA must be seriously enforced because that has not been done.

"The ministries, the PM's Department and other agencies have been directed to coordinate their actions for better enforcement," he told reporters after opening the International Law Conference on "Asean Legal Systems and Regional Integration" here today.

The two-day conference

is jointly organised by the Jakarta-based Asean Secretariat and Universiti Malaya's Asia-Europe Institute.

Rais will also meet Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad tomorrow on the proposed agreement to be signed by students and the monitoring of the teaching staff.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said concerted efforts are being taken to identify those responsible for inducing university students into joining underground movements to destabilise the country.

When met after the opening of the law conference, UM Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain said the administration is looking into students' activities and monitoring them.

"We need to determine what sort of activities the students are involved in. If it is militant, then it becomes a legal issue and a matter for the police," he said.