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UM-Warning

DON'T TRY TO BLOCK PM'S ATTENDANCE, SAYS VICE-CHANCELLOR

KUALA LUMPUR, June 30 (Bernama) -- Students, administrative staff and lecturers of Universiti Malaya (UM) were today warned not to get involved with certain quarters' attempts to prevent Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from attending a symposium in the campus tomorrow.

Universiti Malaya vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Mohd Zain said stern action would be taken against those involved in such activities.

The university had asked for police assistance to maintain order and UM security guards would not hesitate to expel anyone who misbehaved on campus grounds, he said.

Dr Anuar Zaini was speaking to reporters after the opening of the "Simposium Penegasan Arah Tuju Idealisme Mahasiswa di Alaf Baru" at UM's Auditorium Kompleks Perdana Siswa.

The symposium, opened by Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, was originally scheduled to be held at the Dewan Tunku Canselor but the hall was destroyed by fire yesterday.

Dr Anuar Zaini said the university had found pamphlets urging students and staff to stop Dr Mahathir from attending and closing the symposium by staging demonstrations in the campus.

If students had any grouses, they should use the opportunity to meet Dr Mahathir and present their views in a decorous manner, he said.

"University students should be rational and should use their time in the university to build their intellectual capabilities and not get involved in negative activities," he said.

He said the university had problems controlling the movements of members of the public into and out of the campus because it is located in the city and surrounded by housing estates.

Asked on Puteri Umno's memorandum calling for his resignation to take responsibility for the fire, Dr Anuar Zaini said that was just the movement's opinion.

"The university has its own procedures and regulations, and I will continue to discharge my duties as entrusted by the government," he said.

-- BERNAMA

AKT AFY YBY