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Shahidan: Extend ban on gatherings, ceramah

KANGAR, Wed. - The police have been urged to extend their ban on public gatherings and political ceramah in Selangor to other States in order to prevent the spread of rumours in the wake of the Kampung Medan incident.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said such measures were necessary because the ban would not be effective if confined to just one State.

"We need the ban to cover the whole country because irresponsible parties may use the incident as a talking point in their ceramah in other States causing further tension among the races," he said.

Shahidan, who was speaking after chairing the State Executive Council meeting at his office today, said the State Government would send a letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad asking for the nationwide ban.

He said ceramah held by Opposition parties could easily be used to spread rumours.

"When this happens, the Opposition leaders, as in the past, will say that they are not responsible for what their speakers said," he said.

He also suggested that the ban be enforced until the situation has returned to normal.

Shahidan added that the State Government would also issue a directive to all mosque officials to adhere to the official text for khutbah (Friday prayer sermons) to prevent the spread of rumours.

Selangor Chief Police Officer Datuk Nik Ismail Nik Yusof yesterday issued a ban on public gatherings and ceramah in the State in order to check the spread of rumours related to the incident.

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