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Mahathir-ISA  
STUDENTS NOT ABOVE LAW, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 6 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has reminded students that they are not above the law.

They would have to face action if found involved in activities detrimental to national security, he said.

"I think this is more to security rather than university colleges offence (under the Universities and University Colleges Act)," he said when asked to comment on yesterday's detention of Mara Skills Institute student Khairul Anuar Ahmad Zainuddin under the Internal Security Act (ISA).

The prime minister was replying to questions raised on the matter at a media conference after launching IKIM.fm radio here today.

He said the relevant legislation would be applied against elements undermining national security.

The ISA allows detention without trial, among other things.

Dr Mahathir said students too enjoyed freedom of expression but taking part in illegal activities such as street demonstrations was another matter.

Dr Mahathir also elaborated on the need for specific cyberlaws to deal with the misuse of the Internet to spread misinformation and propagate pornography, among other things.

" This really undermines the morals of society. We would like to use the Internet for the people to learn more information but not misinterpretation," he said.

The Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim had earlier called for the streamlining of Malaysia's laws with developments in the cyber world in the wake of the Internet being misused to advocate pornography, lies and incitements to cause racial disharmony.

Dr Mahathir said in many countries such as Germany, pornography was an offence chargeable in court.

Commenting on the Malaysian Trades Union Congress's call to the government to freeze the intake of foreign workers by the private sector, Dr Mahathir said the government would always ensure that locals are given priority.

"Action will be taken against employers who replace local employees with foreign workers," he added.

He also said the government was always cautious when dealing with the recruitment of foreign workers to ensure locals were gainfully employed.

-- BERNAMA  
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