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UM to act against those who breach disciplinary code

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Universiti Malaya's management has never failed to take action against students or lecturers who breach disciplinary code of conduct and regulations.

UM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain said the university authorities were always stringent in handling issues relating to discipline and involvement in politics.

"The university is a centre to pursue knowledge and any action which deviates from this objective and that aims to smear the good name of UM will be resolved through stern action, including expulsion, irrespective of whether they are students or lecturers.

"All students who enter UM are required to begin their studies with a pledge that they will adhere to the regulations and will not smear the good name of the institution during the duration of their study.

"This has always been UM's stand ever since its establishment to enforce each of its regulations without any compromise," he said after opening the Rainforest For Health exhibition here today.

Recently, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government would conduct a specific agreement with students and lecturers to determine their commitment towards pursuing knowledge and obtain a university degree to avoid wastage of public funds. The agreement, among others, will allow the Government to determine a student's attendance at lectures and evaluate their prestige.

Dr Mahathir said students who failed to achieve the academic criteria, were indisciplined or could not concentrate on their studies, would be boarded out from the university.

The PM warned that similar action would also be taken against lecturers who misused their positions by disseminating the political ideology of Opposition parties.

Meanwhile, on the recent detention of Persatuan Mahasiswa Universiti Malaya (PMUM) president Muhamad Fuad Mohd Ikhwan, Dr Anuar said he was still awaiting a report from the UM administration.

Fuad was detained on July 6 under Section 73(1) of the Internal Security Act. He was released 10 days later.

Dr Anuar explained that since UM had its own regulations, any action to be initiated would be based on the investigations by UM's disciplinary board.

On the country's forestry reserves, he urged local scientists to conduct more in-depth research into the medicinal properties of its tree species as this would encourage its continued preservation.

"The level of awareness among the public on the importance of our rainforests must be enhanced so that they will appreciate and preserve it.

"The rainforest serves as the lungs to the world and is important for the world's ecological process and determines the weather conditions, rainfall patterns and also as a pharmacy that provides a variety of medicines for our health."

He said Malaysians were fortunate as they could benefit from the medicinal cultures of three ethnic races which are based on forestry products.

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