

Don't go overboard, Jais reminded

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THE Selangor Islamic Religious Department (Jais) has been reminded not to be overzealous while carrying out enforcement activities to the extent of abusing its powers.

Berita Harian, in its editorial said that physical aggression should be averted when carrying out enforcement. This follows an incident on May 31, where a youth was allegedly pushed, stepped on and had his arms twisted at a shopping mall.

The daily said that compared to the offence committed by the youth - which was putting his hand on his girlfriend's shoulder - the action taken by Jais officers was seen as going overboard.

"Jais claimed the tension was due to anger showed by the youth but its officers reaction is perceived as if they were the ones who were angry.

"While one is not questioning

Jais' power to enforce Islamic regulations, it does not mean its enforcement personnel can act as they wished and abuse their powers," the editorial said.

The daily also said the process to educate and create awareness among Muslims on religious laws must be ongoing and that punishment should be the last resort.

Utusan Malaysia reported that Malaysia would not offer political asylum to leaders of the Free Aceh Movement without discussing the issue with Indonesia.

Deputy Home Minister Datuk Zainal Abidin Zin said this was to ensure bilateral ties between both countries would not be jeopardised.

"The decision (on political asylum) lies with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after discussions at Cabinet level.