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Abdullah's advice on tackling indiscipline among students

Balan Moses; Ramlan Said; Lim Chee Wei

DATUK Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi has directed the Education Ministry to take sterner action in dealing with indiscipline among students which seemed to be on the rise.

Utusan Malaysia and Berita Harian quoted the Deputy Prime Minister as saying that he was surprised by the sudden increase in the number of fights and clashes involving students.

Asked whether drastic measures should be taken like reintroducing public caning, Abdullah replied the matter should be discussed further.

In the letters page, the paper carried the views of a reader who felt that public caning in schools could discipline problematic students.

Kamaruddin Ibrahim of Pasir Mas, Kelantan, said measures like expelling students from schools would not solve indiscipline.

The reader said the ministry was "only trying to run away from the real problem" when it expelled students involved in gangsterism.

Berita Harian's editorial yesterday focused on the conflicting statements by two Pas leaders on the party's Islamic state goal.

The paper described such contradictions among Pas leaders as common.

"It shows there is no unity among Pas leaders in handling issues.

"It also reflects the attitude of party leaders who are fond of changing their tune (to suit their audience)," the paper said.

Echoing the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who said that Pas was using Islam to canvass for support, it said Pas had no qualms telling lies to dupe its followers, despite the fact that Malaysia was already recognised as an Islamic state and a role model for other Muslim nations.

On the contrary, the editorial said, Pas, which was bent on establishing an Islamic state, had failed to fulfil its promises.