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40 in institute rioting remanded

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KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Police today obtained a six-day remand order from the Kajang magistrate's court against 40 trainees involved in a rampage involving seniors and juniors at Institut Kemahiran Belia in Dusun Tua, Hulu Langat, yesterday.

Kajang police chief Assistant Commissioner Gingkoi Seman Pancras said in view of the large number involved, magistrate Azhaniz Teh granted the remand order at the district police headquarters.

"We will record statements from the 40 as well as witnesses and others involved in the rampage. The situation at the institute is back to normal and there are no further arrests," Gingkoi said.

He said a misunderstanding between the seniors and juniors led to the rampage, and the institute's management had been advised to keep a close watch on the situation.

Police had classified the case as rioting with weapons under Section 148 of the Penal Code which carries a maximum five years' imprisonment.

Meanwhile, when asked in Alor Gajah to comment on the incident, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government wanted to instil discipline among trainees.

"It looks like they have not learned anything. We cannot allow such things to take place at such institutions."

Yesterday, police arrested the youths, aged 18 to 25, after about 450 trainees - two groups of 250 seniors and 200 juniors - rioted at two dormitories at 2am.

The senior trainees started hurling metal rods, screwdrivers and barbells at the juniors' dormitory.

Four junior trainees were cut by broken glass shards from the shattered windows. However, the junior trainees did not retaliate.

Meanwhile, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said he was awaiting a full report on the incident and would not hesitate to expel the 250 trainees.

"I have directed my officers to submit a report to me before next Wednesday. It involves discipline and is a serious matter. I will not tolerate indiscipline among trainees."