

**Don't Threaten The Country's Judicial System, Says Rais
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1 (Bernama) -- Information Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim reminded certain groups not to resort to street demonstrations to make demands such as influencing a court decision or to threaten the national judicial system.

"Don't use demonstrations or street politics to influence or threaten the judicial system because the verdict is yet to be announced, why should we politicise it," he said when met after attending the 1Malaysia Christmas and 2012 New Year Open House organised by the People's Progressive Party (PPP) at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC), here today.

Rais was commenting on the intention of the Parti Keadilan Rakyat (PKR) Youth Wing to launch the 901 Free Anwar Gathering on Jan 9, which is also the date for the verdict on the sodomy case involving PKR advisor Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim which would be announced by High Court Judge Datuk Mohamad Zabidin Mohd Diah.

Citing the case of former Selangor Menteri Besar, the late Datuk Harun Idris, who was also convicted by the court, Rais said Harun's supporters did not resort to demonstrations to influence the judge's decision.

"In previous court cases involving Datuk Harun and many other prominent leaders, the supporters did not resort to street politics, there was no coercion or threat," he said.

Harun was sentenced to two years' jail in 1977 after being found guilty of taking a bribe of RM250,000 from the Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC).

He was sentenced to another six months' jail after being found guilty of misappropriating RM8 million of Bank Kerjasama Rakyat's fund. He was then the bank's chairman.

Rais said the proposed gathering did not reflect real justice practised in the country and he was convinced that the majority of the people would not participate in the gathering.

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