

# Avoid politics or face action, students told

**KOTA KINABALU:** Students in institutions of higher learning have been reminded to refrain from being involved in politics to avoid disciplinary action.

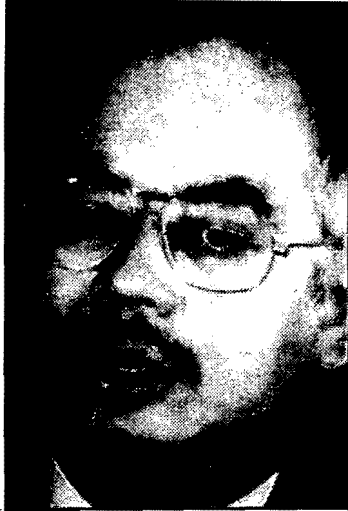
Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said that the Universities and University Colleges Act clearly states that students of institutions of higher learning are prohibited from being involved in politics.

"They can keep abreast with political developments but cannot be involved in the political process. If they are involved, then they should face the risk of action being taken against them," he told reporters after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Syarikat Takaful Malaysia Bhd and Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) for the implementation of a takaful programme at the university, here.

Najib was asked to comment on the involvement of university students in the reformation movement launched by former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim following his dismissal from the cabinet and the party.

He said that his ministry was monitoring the situation before taking any action against the students involved in such activities.

"We are monitoring the situation together with the police



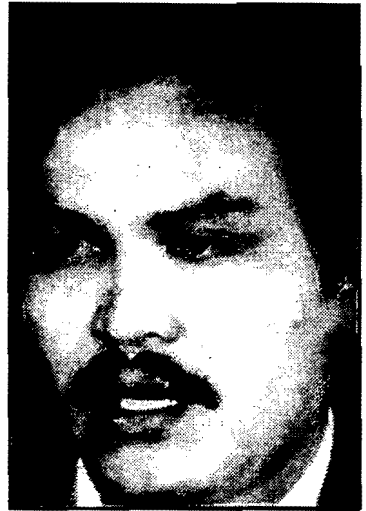
**NAJIB ... we are monitoring the situation**

because most of the activities are held outside the campus," he said.

"We advise the students not to be involved in politics as the Universities and University Colleges Act is very clear on students' involvement in politics," he said.

Meanwhile UMS students have assured the government that they would stay away from activities organised by the sacked Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

Its Students Representative Council president Mohammad Fakhrurozi Mat Saad told reporters here yesterday that



**MOHAMMAD FAKHRUROZI ... full support**

the Council would ensure that the university students here would not be actively involved in politics or radical movements.

Mohammad Fakhrurozi also said the Council fully supported Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's decision to remove Anwar both from the Cabinet and Umno.

He added the University students should make full use of the opportunity to acquire higher levels of education.

His remarks were made in the wake of increasing allegations of university students' involvement in the Anwar-initiated reform movement.