

# UMS students in illegal assembly to face legal action

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**KOTA KINABALU:** The management of Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) will take legal action against any of its students participating in an illegal assembly which is planned by a group of non-governmental organisations on New Year's eve.

Its vice chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Mohd Harun Abdullah, said students should be focusing on their studies, especially during the examination weeks.

"Now we are in the examination weeks, and students who participate in the illegal assembly will not gain anything good. We are always open to our students and I am sure they know how to find the proper channels to express their dissatisfaction ... not through this kind of activity.

"Knowing UMS students, I am

sure our students are very matured and they know what is right and what is wrong. We always tell them to focus on their studies not to be involved in illegal activities," he added.

Harun said this when asked whether the university would take any action against its students who participated in the planned assembly at Dataran Merdeka today in protest of the price hike on goods.

However, he said, the university had not expelled any student and there had been no reports made on students taking part in such rallies.

He also advised students not to believe rumours or news spread on the social media on issues, including complaints of food poisoning at the canteen of a branch campus.

"...a student should be wise to

evaluate and not make social websites such as Facebook a source because it can influence thinking and threaten national security," he said.

The police reportedly have given stern warnings to individuals and groups planning to stage an illegal rally at the Dataran Merdeka today.

Kuala Lumpur Deputy Police Chief Datuk Amar Singh Ishar Singh was quoted as saying the police would not hesitate to arrest anyone instigating chaos under the Penal Code and Security Offences (Special Measures) Act 2012.

The assembly is suspected to be organised by Kumpulan Gerakan Turun Kos Sara Hidup (Turun), Jingga 13, Solidariti Anak Muda Malaysia as well as Solidariti Mahasiswa Malaysia.