

Campus alert

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**Militant groups in varsities
'will be severely dealt with'**

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government will deal severely with groups spreading their militant leanings to institutions of higher learning in this country, the Prime Minister's Department warned yesterday.

The alert comes in the wake of reports that a militant *jihad* group has emerged at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) in Kedah.

"This thing seems to be on the increase. We need to control the situation," Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday.

"This matter should be urgently addressed," he told reporters at the end of a one-day visit to Ipoh before flying back here.

Minister in the PM's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin said any militant *jihad* at the campuses should be firmly dealt with.

"We cannot just ignore this. The Government hopes all institutions of higher learning will jointly ensure that there are no elements in their midst who will bring chaos to this country," he told reporters after opening a workshop on 'Guidance for Regional Pilgrims' here.

He believed that the idea of the *jihad* movement came about from

the use of the book, *Ikhwan Muslimin*, by Ishak Massa Ah Husaini of Egypt. The book had been translated from Arabic into Malay.

He said situations and patterns pointing towards questions such as revolutions, as found in the book, could not be applied in Malaysia and students should be careful when selecting books or reference materials.

The disclosure of the group's emergence was made by UUM Vice Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Fawzi Mohd Basri last Thursday, quoting a working paper at a seminar organised by the Jemaah Islah Malaysia (JIM) in Penang last year.

Dr Ahmad Fawzi claimed that the seminar promoted *jihad* for the setting up of an Islamic state, including the use of force and weapons, if necessary.

This, however, was denied by JIM deputy president Zaid Kamaruddin who said on Friday that the UUM vice-chancellor misquoted the working paper.

Zaid said the paper actually meant to remind the seminar participants that the *jihad* to set up an

Five UUM lecturers being

investigated

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Islamic state need not necessarily mean by way of taking up arms.

Speaking to reporters at the university yesterday, Dr Ahmad Fawzi said he had given information and documents to the police who contacted him on Friday following the news reports about the JIM seminar.

He has also barred UUM students from the seminars without the university's permission.

He said five UUM lecturers were being investigated in relation to their action to undermine the government when delivering lectures.

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