

29 AUG 1999

Youth-Committee

COMMITTEE TO MONITOR LECTURERS AND STUDENTS NEEDED

KUALA TERENGGANU, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth movement today urged the Education Ministry to establish a special committee to monitor the activities of students and lecturers at public institutions of higher learning (IPTA) involved in anti-government movement.

Chairman of the Umno Youth Undergraduate and Training Council, Zein Isma Ismail said the establishment of the committee was necessary as there were a handful of students who were now more bold in opposing the government openly.

"The action of the students and lecturers involved appeared as though they were ungrateful of the government's deeds to the people all this while...Umno Youth is very sad over this development," he told Bernama here.

Yesterday, Director-General of Education Datuk Dr Abdul Shukor Abdullah said the ministry would set up a disciplinary committee to submit concrete proof on allegations that teachers were involved in inciting students to hate the government.

According to Dr Abdul Shukor, the committee would be represented by three parties that is the school headmasters or principals, State Education Department representatives and the School Inspectorate.

Zein Isma said the committee should be extended to include lecturers and students in IPTA whose attitude showed that they were not grateful to the government.

He said the committee was not intended to curtail the political direction of IPTA students and lecturers but that they should be responsible to the ruling government.

Stern action must be taken against those involved in anti-government movement to prevent it from jeopardising government efforts in national development.

"While our country practices democracy and anyone has the right to support any candidate they like in the general election, government employees should not abuse their position or become agents of the opposition to topple the government," he said.

He said Umno Youth would assist the government in handling the problem and was against undergraduates being made tools by certain groups with narrow political thinking.

On the upgrading of Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM) to a university, he said the move was appropriate and timely and that the university should be given time to implement plans in education.

He also refuted that there would be confusion over the name Universiti Teknologi Mara and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia because the decision over the name had not been made.

He also welcomed the proposal to create a medical faculty at Uiversiti Teknologi Mara as this would help to increase the number of medical experts in the country.

The upgrading of ITM into Universiti Teknologi Mara was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, on Thursday when he attended the ITM Alumni Premier Gathering at Stadium Malawati, Shah Alam.

-- BERNAMA

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