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Najib-Council

NO PRE-CONDITION TO THE FORMATION OF COUNCIL, SAYS NAJIB

KUANTAN, Oct 22 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the formation of the national students' consultative council (MPPK) does not stipulate any pre-condition that the government would change its policies.

He said the setting up of the MPPK was to create a forum to explain and discuss current issues, and the council must be constructive in nature.

"But, it appears there are some groups who want the forum to provide some form of assurance that the government will amend the Universities and University Colleges Act, ISA and so on," he told reporters after officiating the Malaysian Confederation of Headmasters Councils (GMGBM) Convention and annual delegates conference, here.

He was asked to comment on the statement by the Malaysian Students' Council (MPM), a confederation of eight student organisations in the country, yesterday which rejected the government's proposal for the establishment of MPPK.

Among the reasons given by the MPM was that the setting up of the MPPK would be duplicating because the MPM, which has more than 300,000 members comprising undergraduates from public and private institutions of higher learning, had long been established as a forum for communication between students and the government.

They were also not satisfied with the decision of the Education Minister not to amend the Universities and University Colleges Act.

On the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to teachers in Kedah yesterday, Najib said teachers should not abuse their position which had been entrusted to them by the rakyat.

"Teachers who bring political elements in classrooms should not continue with such practices. If they wish to continue doing so, they should resign as teachers because it could spoil the children's thinking," he said.

Najib said children should be taught properly but instead they were being incited to hate the leaders.

Earlier in his speech, Najib suggested that headmasters provided proper guidance on the actual responsibilities of teachers and to correct the situation if any wrongdoing was detected.

He also received the pledge of the Malaysian Headmasters from the GMGBM president Muhammad Mustapha stating their support for the leadership to the Prime Minister.

In his speech, Muhammad conveyed several requests by the GMGBM including the creation of the post of Specialist Headmaster, incorporation of the Headmasters' entertainment allowance into the salary list, reduction in the ratio of pupils per class to 35 for primary schools and requesting for two school sessions for schools with more than 1,500 pupils.

-- BERNAMA

SHS AO