

28/04/1999

Private colleges criticised over vocational training

THE majority of private colleges are not giving emphasis on providing vocational training due to the high capital involved, a Barisan Nasional backbencher told the Dewan Rakyat.

Ruhanie Ahmad (BN-Parit Sulong) said the Government had to provide the incentives to spur the private sector to play a bigger role.

"I believe the private sector is not keen due to the high cost required."

The colleges are not allowed to set up training centres at shophouses and are also required to have their own building complete with workshops, equipment and machinery.

Ruhanie, who is also Mara chairman, was debating the mid-term review of the Seventh Malaysia Plan tabled last week by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Datuk Yap Pian Hon (BN-Serdang) called on government agencies and departments to ensure projects were completed on schedule.

Overlapping of duties and wastage must be checked while work procedures among the agencies be standardised and obstacles impeding the completion of projects be removed.

"In this aspect, the district development committees," he said, "is the best channel in solving problems."

Hadi Awang (Pas-Marang) claimed that the Government had worsened the economic crisis by emphasising too much on construction of mega projects, getting involved actively in business and developing an industrialised nation plan at the expense of the poor.

"I am not saying that the Government cannot get involved in business," he said, "but its role should be regulatory."

Hoo Seong Chang (BN-Kluang) said the aim of the Government, now that the economic crisis had stymied growth, should be geared towards enlarging the size of the middle-income group.

Datuk Badruddin Amiruldin (BN-Yan) urged the Education Ministry not to tolerate the action of students, lecturers and teachers who participated in street demonstrations.

"Do not give these ungrateful people any more chance," he said. "Sack them...there are more outside wanting to enter universities or become teachers and lecturers."

Chang See Ten (BN-Gelang Patah) argued that the burden of privatisation was transferred to the people who pay more for the services.

The charges imposed by companies can be accepted but the Government must ensure that the people have the right to make a choice on whether to use the services or not, he said.

Citing the Second Link between Johor and Singapore and the North South Expressway as examples, Chang said it was the responsibility of the Government to maintain the old trunk roads and the Causeway.

(END)