

01/04/2000

MYC wants more youth included

Raynore Mering

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Malaysian Youth Council will ask for stronger youth representation in the government during the National Youth Consultative Council meeting this June.

Its president Saifuddin Abdullah today said MYC had already sent memorandums to the Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and all other ministers at the Federal and state level requesting for this.

"This is to realise the concept of youth empowerment enabling young people to think and act with responsibility on issues affecting them," he said at a Press conference after the opening of the "National Policy Dialogue in HRD Capacity-Building of Youth."

According to him, except for the Youth and Sports Ministry, youth representation in the government ministries was almost nil.

Saifuddin said MYC will also propose to the NYCC the concept of "new governance in the new millennium" where all three sectors of governance, the state, business and civil society which includes youths, will work together.

In addition, MYC will present a document calling for the strengthening of youth organisations in the country.

"We would like to request that we solve the issues covering the weakness of youth organisations once and for all because we have been talking about it for so long," Saifuddin said.

Furthermore, he said the monograph on youth policies that will be deliberated during the National Policy Dialogue today will also be tendered at the meeting.

"It is part of our effort to share in the process of formulating a comprehensive national youth development plan of action which will coordinate all action plans of the government and non-government organisations," he said.

He said the lack of a national action plan had resulted in the duplication and wastage of resources.

Meanwhile, Deputy Youth and Sports Minister, Datuk Ong Tee Keat, who officiated at the function, called the annual NYCC a "Youth Parliament."

He said it will be participated by 120 delegates consisting of youth leaders from government bodies, non-government organisations and also political bodies.

The National Policy Dialogue attracted more than 40 people representing the various government departments and youth related organisations in the country.

During the one day dialogue, a monograph addressing four main issues, youth education, health, employment and participation, will be written.

(END)