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Umno-Vision

UMNO YOUTH APPALLED BY DONG JIAO ZHONG'S REFUSAL TO ACCEPT VISION SCHOOLS

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 9 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth is appalled by Dong Jiao Zhong, the Chinese educationists' movement's outright rejection of the Vision School concept mooted by the government.

Its Education Bureau chairman Dr Adham Baba said the movement's reluctance to accept the concept showed its selfishness and indicated a strong desire to resist integration and efforts towards enhancing racial harmony in the country.

"Even after repeated assurances from the Education Ministry that the Vision School concept is not intended to bring about the demise of vernacular schools, Dong Jiao Zhong remains obdurate and uncompromising," he said in a statement today.

He said the movement's rejection of the concept on grounds that it would precipitate the erosion of the identity of Chinese schools insults the noble and sincere intention of the policy.

The Vision School concept mooted by Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad involves three schools of different mediums -- Malay, Chinese and Tamil -- sharing common facilities, including common grounds.

The Chinese educationists' movement opposed the concept, saying that it would result in Chinese schools losing their identity, among other things.

Last week, Musa reiterated that the government would go ahead with the concept even with Dong Jiao Zhong's objections.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Mahathir Mohamad on Monday expressed his disappointment over the movement's objections even after the Education Ministry had explained the concept.

Yesterday, Transport Minister and MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said he and two other ministers -- Gerakan president and Primary Industries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik and Sarawak United People's Party deputy president, and Science, Technology and Environment Minister Datuk Law Hieng Ding

-- would meet Musa soon to discuss the issue further.

Dong Jiao Zhong said yesterday it opposed the concept as details of Vision Schools were not clear.

Dr Adham, calling for the group to reconsider its decision, said Umno Youth believed that there must be a concerted effort and sustained commitment by all parties to reduce the racial polarisation in the country.

"We believe that through shared co-curricular activities, common eating and sporting facilities and joint assemblies, young Malaysians will be able to increase their exposure to their peers from other races.

"If merely sharing of certain facilities and monthly assemblies are already deemed unacceptable, the future of national unity is certainly in much doubt," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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