

Minister's statements confusing, says assemblyman

SUN 12 MAY 2001

PENANG, Fri: Recent statements by Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad on the university admission issue are confusing and contradicting, Pengkalan Kota assemblyman Lee Hack Teik said today.

Lee, of the MCA, said admission into universities should be based on performance "but apparently this was not the case".

"It just does not make sense how top scorers with good curricular activities record failed to get in while others with poorer results were accepted. These incidents will not convince students to excel academically," he said.

Lee said that instead of rectifying the situation, Musa had gone on to say the ministry would study a proposal to change the bumiputra-to-non-bumiputra ratio to 66:34.

The new ratio was suggested by Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia founder member- Datuk Zainal Abidin Wahid.

"This will go against the very grain of our development plan to lure Malaysian professionals who are residing overseas, as advocated by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad," Lee said.

He said Malaysian professionals who wanted to return-home would now have second thoughts about the prospects of their children getting a place in the local universities later on.

Such education policies would aggravate the brain drain situation in the country.

Lee said that the Education Ministry has experienced many problems since Musa was appointed and added that some of these educational issues have put "the Barisan Nasional assemblymen in a very difficult position in facing the public".