

16 JULY 2001

Adnan-Auku

AUKU NEEDS TO BE AMENDED, SAYS ADNAN

KUANTAN, July 16 (Bernama) -- The Universities and University Colleges Act (Auku) 1971 needs to be amended to ensure undergraduates, especially Malay students pay attention to their studies, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob said today.

He said the present trend of Malay students' inclination to politics had clearly taken a toll on their studies as reflected in their dismal performance.

"Based on my experience while I was in the university, none of the students who were active in politics obtained a First Class degree," he told reporters after opening a seminar for assemblymen on the understanding of the law and public relations in Cherating, near here, today.

He said this when asked to comment on a statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday that the government would study Auku to see whether the regulations need to be amended to ensure students concentrated on their studies.

Adnan regretted that Malay students showed interest and were active in matters not related to their co-curriculum unlike non-Malay students.

Asked on student activities in state government-run colleges in Pahang, Adnan said there had been no reports of students actively involved in politics.

"So far, there is no such problem in educational institutions under the Pahang government, only there is some problem in the Bandar Jengka branch of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) where students are involved in politics and on activities not related to their co-curriculum," he said.

Touching on the three-day seminar, he said it was aimed at briefing the assemblymen, including opposition members on the state constitution, state assembly sitting procedures, public speaking, protocol guidance, eating manners, public relations and social interaction.

-- BERNAMA

MS TS