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Hishammuddin-Meritocracy

CONTRIBUTE IDEAS, STOP POLITICISING MERITOCRACY ISSUE, OPPOSITION TOLD

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 5 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today called on the opposition parties to contribute ideas towards the improvement of Malay students' performance instead of politicising the government's proposal to base the entry of Malays students to public institutions of higher learning based on merit.

Its chief, Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein, said that the decline in Malay students' performance should be overcome immediately.

"If the opposition is sincere in wishing to protect the fate of the younger Malays, they should not politicise this matter and must make determined efforts together with us because it is clear that the performance of our students has declined whereas they need to compete in this world today," he told reporters after launching the International Towerthon Run 2001 at the Kuala Lumpur Tower here.

Hishammuddin said that Umno Youth was not objecting to the proposed implementation of the meritocratic system pertaining to entry to public institutions of higher learning but felt it should be carefully looked into, to ensure that Malay students attain outstanding achievements.

Umno Youth, he said, appreciated the concern of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad over the decline in the performance of Malay students, requiring a comprehensive approach to ensure better performance.

The Umno Youth chief said that Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, was expected to outline the proposed implementation of the meritocratic system to party members on Wednesday.

The Umno Youth was earlier reported to have called on the government to reconsider the proposed implementation of the meritocratic system as the quota system pertaining to the entry of Bumiputera students to public institutions of higher learning was still needed.

Asked to comment on the chaos at the MCA Youth annual general assembly last Friday, Hishammuddin, who is Barisan Nasional (BN) Youth chairman, said that the action of a small group could affect the larger body committed to the struggles in the interest of the party and the nation.

"MCA Youth should study and learn from this experience to check this kind of culture. I'm also saddened and feel regret and hope it is a lesson to MCA Youth and the Youth movements of the BN component parties," he said.

He said that MCA Youth had given an assurance that there would not be a recurrence of such incident which could affect the BN's image.

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