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Hishammuddin-Merit

DON'T FEEL SHACKLED BY MERIT-BASED SYSTEM, STUDENTS TOLD

By: Elmi Rizal Elias

LONDON, Aug 28 (Bernama) -- Malaysian students including those studying overseas should not let the merit-based system to be implemented soon to shackle their studies, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said.

Instead, they should pay more attention to their studies to achieve academic excellence, he said.

"They (the students) are still confused over the merit-based system. Discussions with them on the system centred primarily on university intake while the system covered many aspects.

"I've explained to them, what's important is the achievement of our students and their performance," said Hishammuddin, who is also Umno Youth chief, after a dialogue with UK-Eire Umno Club members here yesterday.

Malaysia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and Ireland Datuk Salim Hashim and Malaysian Student Department Director Dr Kamarudin Mohd Nor were present.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had announced that a merit-based system would be introduced next year in all public universities to ensure Bumiputera students take their studies seriously.

A special briefing on the merit-based system chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi was held for university vice-chancellors and senior officials of the Education Ministry in Putrajaya yesterday.

Hishammuddin explained that implementation of the system would not affect the present Bumiputera student intake quota to public universities.

"Actually, we have been asked to explain the system to our colleagues and friends. It is understandable if they are unclear about the system as Umno president (Dr Mahathir) gave a closed-door briefing to party leaders.

"We were instructed to explain (on the merit-based system)," he said.

Hishammuddin said the Umno Youth Education Bureau would compile all proposals received on the system to be discussed with Umno Education Bureau chairman Tan Sri Musa Mohamad, who is also Education Minister.

-- BERNAMA

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