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Dr M will resolve UM issue, says Aziz

A. Hafiz Yatim

MALACCA, Tues. - The Education Ministry and Umno Supreme Council are confident Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will resolve the issue of the proposed closure of Universiti Malaya's Pusat Asasi Sains.

Calling on certain parties not to politicise the matter, Deputy Education Minister and party supreme council member Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin said Dr Mahathir was the right person to make the decision, and the Ministry and party would abide by his decisions.

"Dr Mahathir is the person responsible for the setting up of Pusat Asasi Sains in Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia when he was the Education Minister in the 1970s," said Aziz after receiving the Darjah Mulia Seri Melak today from the Yang di-Pertua Negeri Tun Syed Ahmad Shahabuddin at his official residence in Istana Melaka today.

The other recipient of the Darjah Seri Melaka was Nishihara (M) Sdn Bhd chairman Datuk Mohd Hanif Sher Mohamad. Both Aziz and Hanif were not present at the investiture ceremony held last October.

"The centres were established at that time to help Bumiputera students improve on science and mathematics, before enrolling into universities.

"Therefore, Dr Mahathir understands the problem and he is the right person to solve this (issue)."

Dr Mahathir, added Aziz, would discuss the matter with Universiti Malaya Vice-Chancellor Datuk Dr Anuar Zaini Md Zain before making a decision.

Party vice-president Tan Sri Muhammad Muhammad Taib had raised the Pusat Asasi Sains issue at the Umno Supreme Council meeting yesterday.

However, the matter was not discussed. The council referred the matter to Dr Mahathir and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad.

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