

U

27 AUG 2001

Khalil-Students

GOVT ENCOURAGES FREQUENT INTERACTION BETWEEN LEADERS AND STUDENTS

SHAH ALAM, Aug 27 (Bernama) -- More frequent interactions between government leaders and local university students and lecturers are being encouraged because of the growing importance of their voice being heard for the nation-building agenda, the Information Minister Tan Sri Khalil Yaakob said.

Such interactions would also raise the lecturers and students' level of understanding of government policies and measures, he said.

"Indeed we encourage senior government leaders to interact with local university students while simultaneously conveying the government's message," he said.

Khalil told reporters this after a dialogue with Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UiTM) mass communication and media studies undergraduates here today.

In fact, he said, even when Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad made visits abroad, having dialogue with Malaysian students overseas had always been a key event in the Prime Minister's itinerary.

This has been emulated and extended to cover undergraduates and lecturers of local universities as well, Khalil said.

The dialogue sessions also served as a vehicle for the leaders to listen to the problems raised by the lecturers and students besides offering solutions, he said.

On today's dialogue, Khalil said it enlightened him on what the students and lecturers thought about his ministry and described their feedback as positive.

"The response is good, we have good communication between the ministry and students here," said Khalil commending the students for being forthcoming and candid in the questions they posed to him.

Khalil said he looked forward to having more such dialogues with UiTM students.

"We have to drop by and ask how they fare from time to time. We also want lecturers and students to keep track of what the government is doing," he added.

-- BERNAMA

RIZ NMO RYN