

10/12/2001

IIU: Not true officials supported candidates

KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - International Islamic University deputy rector Dr Sidek Baba yesterday refuted allegations that some officials had sided with pro-opposition candidates during the recently-concluded students' election.

He said it was not true that the authorities did not look into the complaints as alleged by a student. Sidek said all complaints raised by the candidates had been dealt with fairly and professionally.

"An election board set up by the university comprising the deans of all the kuliyah will meet to discuss any complaint made by students.

"We are very transparent and have nothing to hide. I don't know what else to say if people say I'm not fair," he said when contacted.

It was reported in an English daily that a students' representative from the university during a buka puasa function hosted by the Prime Minister for the Peninsular Malay Students Federation (Gabungan Pelajar Melayu Semenanjung) in Putrajaya on Wednesday had appealed to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to look into the pro-opposition activities in the IIU campus.

Among other things, the student said he told Dr Mahathir about the distribution of poison-pen letters in campus by pro-opposition students implicating Umno leaders.

The student said he had brought the matter up to the university authorities but he had yet to receive any response or see any action against the group. There were also allegations of last minute changes to election rules to favour opposition candidates.

Following this, Umno Youth wanted IIU to investigate.

Sidek explained that the complainant met him before the election saying that he had pictures of a group of students (pro-opposition) preparing banners for the election.

Sidek said he called for the election board to meet and discuss the allegations.

"Following this and after careful deliberation, the board was of the opinion that action will not be taken against the students for making the banners. The board agreed that preparing banners are not against the rules and it was only fair for them to do so for the election."

He said action could be taken against the students if they violated regulations.

Sidek said candidates vying for seats in the election must abide by the conditions set by the committee. Among others, they must have a CGPA of not below than 2.3, not face any disciplinary problems, have a record of good moral conduct and must have passed at least one academic year.

The complainant, he said, also claimed that the rival candidates had made a statement to Harakah, the Pas publication, and therefore should be disqualified from the election.

"To this, I told him that it was only an allegation but I have asked him to write to me so that we can investigate the matter."

Sidek said the student was dissatisfied with the response and had accused him of being pro-opposition.

On the poison-pen letters, he said it was difficult to verify their existence.

Sidek said a third-year law student had been asked attend a hearing on Tuesday conducted by the university's disciplinary committee on Tuesday

for making a statement outside the campus without first consulting with the university's administration.

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