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Ling-Malay

NEW MEASURES AIMED AT ENCOURAGING MALAY STUDENTS TO STUDY

GENTING HIGHLANDS, July 28 (Bernama) -- The proposed radical steps, which include basing university admissions on meritocracy, will encourage Malay students at public universities to concentrate on their studies, MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

He said the steps proposed by Umno stemmed from the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's frustration and disappointment over the poor academic performance of Malay students.

"The Prime Minister has a very good intention. He wants young Malay students to wake up because he is saddened by the fact that some students go to the university not to study, but to spend a lot time on political activities,

"So, I can understand his frustrations and disappointment," Dr Ling told reporters after opening the Pahang MCA Delegates Convention here.

Dr Mahathir said yesterday that the government, if forced, will stop or reduce the intake of Malay students into universities.

"We will do it, and maybe, for one year we might just base all admissions on meritocracy," he was quoted as saying after chairing the Umno Supreme Council meeting.

Dr Mahathir also said such steps have to be taken because Malay students were so convinced that they did not need any help from the government.

"They are those who don't realise help is given so they can enter universities. We need to show (them) what the actual situation is if there is no government aid," he added.

Meanwhile, Dr Ling said he was delighted that more and more students were looking forward to study at the party-owned Tunku Abdul Rahman College.

Dr Ling had earlier officiated the first convocation of the TAR Pahang branch college at its campus in Karak. A total of 48 pioneer students of the branch campus, which was set up in 1999, received their scrolls from Dr Ling.

The branch campus has 794 students and this number is expected to grow to 1,500 students in two years.

Dr Ling said many of the graduates had expressed their wish to further their studies at the soon-to-be established University Tunku Abdul Rahman (Utar).

"I am impressed by their enthusiasm. It's instances like this that gives me the inspiration to carry on with the project in the interest of the future generation," he said.

Dr Ling said the establishment of Utar cannot be accomplished by an individual, two people or 100 people but its construction needs the cooperation of all.

"MCA needs the support of the Chinese community and the government.. if we have it all then we can make it," said Dr Ling.

-- BERNAMA

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