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Rafidah-Meritocracy

OPPOSITION TO MERITOCRACY DEGRADES THE MALAYS

IPOH, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Wanita Umno head Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz said the opposition to the proposed implementation of meritocracy in the admission of Bumiputera students to public institutions of higher learning (IPTA) appeared to run down the capability of the Malays.

She said such an attitude would not only result in outstanding Malay students not getting actual recognition, in fact entrepreneurs and others would be considered to be successful merely because of government assistance.

"This is not fair to the Malay students who are actually outstanding, obtaining 4A's in the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia or nine A's in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examinations. Meritocracy in principle means qualification...if (one is) not qualified (one) does not get," she said when launching the Gopeng Women's Cooperative at Serdang Permai, Simpang Pulai here today.

Rafidah said the actual motive for the proposed meritocracy policy was to change the attitude of the Malays that they could only succeed because of the existence of the quota system and various government assistance and subsidies.

"Wanita Umno will support any action taken by the government," she said.

Last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the implementation of the meritocracy policy was necessary to create awareness on the performance of the Bumiputera students which was much lower compared to that of the non-Bumiputeras.

The cabinet at its meeting yesterday supported the proposal but several quarters, including Umno Youth wanted the proposal to be reviewed.

Rafidah said the privileges obtained by the Malays all this while were because they were lagging behind in various fields but now they were capable of competing with the other races.

She said the Malays must now teach their children from small not to depend merely on government assistance and subsidy, they should in fact be proud of their achievement.

-- BERNAMA

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