

14/06/2001

`Study automatic voter proposal'

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - A study has to be conducted on the proposal that Malaysians who have reached 21 automatically become registered voters.

Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said this was a serious matter and its impact should be studied first.

"We have to see its effect on youths. I was caught by surprise on reading the news today."

Hishammuddin, who is Umno Youth head, said this at his ministry's post-Cabinet meeting today.

He said he believed that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would take the matter into consideration.

Hishammuddin was commenting on a proposal by Election Commission chairman Datuk Abdul Rashid Abdul Rahman featured in an exclusive interview with the New Straits Times today.

Abdul Rashid said the Government had in principle agreed to the proposal by the commission.

This means all Malaysians aged 21 years and above will have their names on the electoral roll and will be able to exercise their constitutional right to vote during a general election or by-election.

The system is being practised in several other countries.

(END)