

02/06/2001

Pas criticised for membership drive at varsities

PETALING JAYA, Fri. - Umno Youth today criticised Pas' plans to set up counters in local universities to recruit members.

Deputy head Datuk Abdul Aziz Sheikh Fazir said the movement did not want to see many Malay students getting involved in politics as it might affect their academic performance.

He said examination results of many Malay students were already not good enough and their direct involvement in politics would only worsen the situation.

"Umno Youth had always been trying to address the problems faced by university students such as on finance and accommodation.

"When they (students) are working, they can enter politics, but not when they are relying on parents or others to finance their studies," Abdul Aziz told reporters after handing new school uniforms and shoes to 56 students at Kampung Perangsang Permai here.

The students are from the 77 families that were made homeless in a fire on May 13. The movement's contributions, worth about RM6,000, also included rubber mats for the families.

On the recent challenge issued to the movement by Umno president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Abdul Aziz said a secretariat to be headed by assistant secretary Zulkifli Alwi would be set up next week to look into the issues.

Umno Youth members were asked to play a major role in determining the party's performance in the next general election by setting up Umno Youth operation rooms at all branches, increase Umno's membership and ensure that all the movement's members were registered as voters.

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