

30 JULY 2001

Umno-Quota

UMNO YOUTH WANTS QUOTA SYSTEM MAINTAINED

KUALA LUMPUR, July 31 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today called on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to consider thoroughly the proposal to admit students into public universities strictly on merit.

Its chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the existing race-based quota system of enrolment must be retained.

"Umno Youth feels that this system must be maintained because the gap in education opportunities between Bumiputeras and non-Bumiputeras, especially in the science and technology field, is still obvious," he said in a statement.

Dr Mahathir, who is Umno president, said last Friday that the government might replace the quota system with one based on merit to shock Malay students into doing better.

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth wanted the quota system retained in line with the national education policy.

"It is feared that the absence of a quota system, especially in the era of k-economy, will result in a much wider gap in terms of knowledge acquisition among our students," he said.

Hishammuddin said that based on last year's statistics, Bumiputeras accounted for only 42.1 percent of Malaysian students admitted to private institutions of higher learning and 12.6 percent of Malaysians who enrolled in foreign universities.

The Umno Youth chief called for a complete review of the country's education system to ensure Bumiputera students were not left behind in education right from the primary school level.

"Umno Youth is very committed in this matter. Through the Education Bureau chaired by Dr Adham Baba, Umno Youth will implement various programmes like the Intensive Tuition Programme to help our students from the school level to improve their performance," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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