

NUTP clarifies stand on varsity places for all deserving students

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KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. — The National Union of the Teaching Profession says its proposal that educational institutions meant for Bumiputeras, such as Universiti Teknologi Mara, be opened to all races, was merely a suggestion.

Its president Tengku Habsah Tengku Petera said that the union's stand was for all deserving students to be given places in the universities.

"If it has been decided that the suggestion is not feasible, and that the existing scenario is best, we will accept it," she said.

She said for the sake of unity and harmony, the union did not wish to ruffle any feathers.

She was commenting on reports which cited Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad as saying the university's establishment was governed by Article 153 of the Federal Constitution which touches on the special position of the Malays and natives of Sabah and Sarawak.

Tengku Habsah earlier had said this change was necessary to ensure that Bumiputera students would be able to compete.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad speaking at a Press conference after launching the inaugural UNI-APRO regional conference today, said there was no proposal to allow non-Bumiputeras to enrol in UiTM.

Universiti Teknologi Mara vice chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah was quoted by one newspaper as saying that the university would not compromise on the issue and told the NUTP not to interfere in its governance.