

# Umno Youth backs education reforms

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by **B. Suresh Ram**  
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Umno Youth yesterday came out in support of Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad and his handling of the recent educational issues.

Information chief Azimi Daim said the movement supports teaching mathematics and science in English and allocating 10% of places in Mara junior science colleges to non-bumiputras.

He said Umno Youth also supports the government move to introduce meritocracy and the call for Malays to change their mindsets.

"We must prove we are capable of meeting and overcoming challenges,"

he said when tabling the motion supporting the movement chief's policy speech at the Umno Youth general assembly at Putra World Trade Centre.

Last Wednesday, the Senai Umno division passed a vote of no confidence against Musa, saying he failed to protect the interest of bumiputra students.

Stressing the move was made by the cabinet, Azmi said any vote of no confidence against Musa also meant a vote of no confidence against Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, the government and the nation.

Azimi said giving in a little does not mean the Malays are giving away their rights and privileges.

"We will continue to defend it," he told the 692 delegates.

Azimi also said Umno never opposed

Islamic laws, only PAS's version which contained its political aspirations.

He called on the government to ensure more qualified Malay entrepreneurs get a share of the economic pie, instead keeping it to a select few.

Kelantan delegate Mohd Zain Yassin said the decisions made by Musa is in the interest of the community.

"Kelantan Umno Youth supports the move."

He also called upon the Education Ministry to ensure the welfare of religious teachers are taken care of.

A delegate from Pahang called on the leaders to regularly come down to the grassroots level, particularly the division level.

"The fall and rise of the party lies with the grassroots," he said.