

19 JUN 2002

Umno-Youth (Musa)

UMNO YOUTH GIVES FULL BACKING TO EDUCATION MINISTER

KUALA LUMPUR, June 19 (Bernama) -- Umno Youth today expressed full support for Tan Sri Musa Mohamad to continue heading the Education Ministry although some Umno members have criticised his leadership.

Its information chief Azimi Daim said the ministry, which has been headed by a Malay all this while, had proven to be capable of implementing education policies that were accepted by everyone.

Azimi said this when moving the motion of thanks to Umno Youth chief Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein for his policy address at the movement's assembly in the Putra World Trade Centre.

Last Wednesday, the Senai Umno division passed a vote of no confidence against Musa in protest against the government's move to increase the intake of students to Mara Junior Science Colleges and matriculation programmes by 10 percent to accommodate non-Bumiputeras.

Stressing that the move was decided 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.

Azmi also called on the Education Ministry to speed up the establishment of a medical faculty at Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) to enable more Bumiputera students to pursue medical studies.

Meanwhile, Bachok Umno division chief Mohd Zain Yassin called on the Education Ministry to review the implementation of the Special Programme for Teachers' Diploma and the Distance Learning Programme in local universities, with a view to include religious teachers.

"The ministry must study this matter to avoid being accused of abandoning the development of Islamic Studies," said the Kelantan Umno Youth representative.

Zain also asked the government to act sternly in overcoming problems associated with state government run religious schools in Kelantan that have allegedly become breeding ground for anti-government activities.

-- BERNAMA

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