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Hishammuddin-IPTS

CABINET AGREES ON NEED TO INCREASE BUMIPUTERA STUDENTS IN IPTS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 12 (Bernama) -- The cabinet today agreed with Umno Youth's stand that the number of bumiputera students in private tertiary institutions (IPTS) should be increased.

Umno Youth head Datuk Hishammuddin Tun Hussein said the cabinet also decided that the increase should be for specific courses and IPTS.

"Umno Youth wants to stress that the issue is not about quota but more about increasing the number of bumiputera students in IPTS nationwide," he said.

Hishammuddin, who is Youth and Sports Minister said this after launching the promotions for the Gamuda Eagle Tour of Malaysia 2002 cycling race at his office, here.

The race will be held in Langkawi from Aug 14 to 18.

MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik had raised Hishammuddin's ire when he dismissed the latter's proposal for a 10 per cent quota for bumiputera students in private tertiary institutions, saying that there was no need for such a quota.

This had prompted Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to direct the two leaders to meet and discuss the matter to clear up any misunderstanding.

Hishammuddin said Umno Youth's stand was clear based on its three main agendas, namely, realising national integration in education, ensuring excellence and healthy competition in the field of education and reducing the imbalance in educational opportunities among the races and between the rural and urban areas.

On his meeting with Dr Ling, which was scheduled for today, Hishammuddin said the MCA president was currently in Europe as part of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's delegation to Luxemburg.

"However, he has asked MCA cabinet minister Datuk Ong Ka Ting to pass a message to me. He said that the MCA was prepared to help Umno Youth achieve the above objective (increasing the number of bumiputera students in the IPTS)," he said.

Hishammuddin said he would meet with Dr Ling upon his return home.

-- BERNAMA

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