

30/07/2002

Dong Jiao Zhong against any form of extremism

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Chinese education movement Dong Jiao Zhong said today it was against any form of extremism and denied that it was extremist or chauvinistic.

United Chinese School Committees' Association (Dong Zhong) chief executive officer Bok Tai Hee said the movement agreed with Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views that people should be wary of supporting Chinese extremists.

"We only aspire to educate the young and ensure that Malaysians can continue to enjoy Chinese education and receive a fair treatment," said Bok.

Dong Zhong and the United Chinese School Teachers' Association (Jiao Zhong) make up the Dong Jiao Zhong.

He added it was unfair to attribute the racial polarisation among university undergraduates to a lack of interaction with other races when these students were studying in national and national-type schools.

He added there may be other factors, including the quota system for admission into public universities and the allocation of scholarships to these students.

He said although there was a need for the affirmative action to help Bumiputera students, it should be fine-tuned and improved upon to be more fair and equitable.

"Things have changed now. The system must reflect current needs," he added.

On Saturday, when opening the MCA general assembly, the Prime Minister said Chinese extremism may force other races, including Malays, to turn to other forms of extremism.

This, he added, would eventually lead to more trouble between the races.

He had also expressed disappointment that the Government had been accused of trying to close down Chinese schools and that some organisations were against the implementation of Vision Schools.

He also lamented the racial polarisation in public universities.

Dong Jiao Zhong had protested against the Government's plans to implement Vision Schools and had reservations about the proposal to teach Science and Mathematics in English in Chinese primary schools.