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BE INDEPENDENT, BUMIPUTERA STUDENTS TOLD

KUCHING, June 17 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak government encourages Bumiputera students in the state to stand on their own feet even if they are eligible for government subsidies and assistance, Deputy Chief Minister Tan Sri Alfred Jabu said today.

Jabu, who is Sarawak Rural and Land Development Minister, said that such dependence on the government would create a group of weak Bumiputera students in an increasingly competitive world.

"Positive endeavours by Bumiputera students to strive to be independent will benefit them in the long-run," he told reporters after opening the Incorporated Society of Planters (ISP) seminar here.

He was asked to comment on the disappointment expressed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in an interview published by a national newspaper yesterday on the negative attitude of some Malay students.

He said that they should ask themselves what they should do instead of depending too much on the government for assistance and subsidies.

-- BERNAMA

CJ RM