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Hishammuddin-Institutions

STUDY TO INCREASE NUMBER OF BUMI STUDENTS IN PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS

KUALA LUMPUR, June 13 (Bernama) -- The Umno Youth will meet up with 600 private institutions of higher learning (IPTS) in the country to study the need to increase intake of Bumiputeras studying there.

Umno Youth Head Datuk Hishammuddin Hussein said the movement had identified nine members for the Special Committee on Bumiputera Education in IPTS responsible for the study.

Hishammuddin also welcomed the encouraging response by several IPTS offering more places for Bumiputeras in their institutions since the issue surfaced.

He said the announcement by Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi on the government's commitment to increase the number of Bumiputeras in IPTS served as a first step towards championing the rights of Bumiputera education.

"The quota for Bumiputera students is not the main agenda, what would be more important is to increase the number of Malays seeking further education," he told a media briefing after announcing the Bumiputera Youth Entrepreneurs National Exposition at the movement's meeting room here.

Hishammuddin who is also Youth and Sports Minister said the movement welcomed Abdullah's call for increased funding to help students finance their education at the IPTS and stated he would like to see the formation of a foundation for that purpose.

Hishammuddin said the financing of students at IPTS would also be a key agenda during the forthcoming Umno General Assembly.

"Perhaps the set-up of a foundation will be discussed. Such a foundation need not be directly managed by the movement. Anyone who would like to see our children further their education by enrolling in these IPTS can initiate such a foundation," he said.

Meanwhile chairman of the Special Committee Dr Adham Baba said the committee had identified and contacted the relevant IPTS and would meet them in phases.

He said the committee would also study the whereabouts of some 11,000 students whose applications to universities were rejected and would analyse the number who had entered the IPTS to further their studies.

"This would be one of the matters to be studied. We would like to know what the problems are, where did they go after failing to enter public institutions (IPTA), and why they lacked interest in entering the IPTS," he said.

Dr Adham said the IPTS could attract more Bumiputeras by providing a conducive learning environment that meets the students' needs such as a good location, comfortable dining facilities and prayer rooms.

During the event Hishammuddin also announced the theme for the exposition, "Cooperation among Bumiputera Entrepreneurs Catalyst for Their Excellence."

The four-day exposition is scheduled to be opened by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday.

Some 63 companies have signed up for the exposition to be held at the Putra World Trade Centre (PWTC).

It is aimed at creating a network of Malay entrepreneurs to collectively achieve maximum productivity, to enable them to seek agents and dealers to market their products for the domestic and export markets, and to prove that locally-made products have the capability to compete in

the manufacturing and production sectors.

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