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MCA-UTAR

UTAR TO TAKE IN MORE MULTI-RACIAL STUDENTS NEXT YEAR

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 13 (Bernama) -- The newly launched Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR), owned by the MCA, will take in more multi-racial students next year, said MCA President Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik.

Dr Ling, who is also UTAR Steering Committee chairman, said the university would adopt a multi-racial environment in the campus and would work hard towards achieving this target in their next intake.

"We are working towards this next year with the help of school counsellors in the secondary schools," he told reporters after the launching ceremony for UTAR by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at Dewan Utama, Tunku Abdul Rahman College here today.

He said through the school counsellors, they would be able to increase more awareness among secondary school students about UTAR and the courses offered by the university to the multi-racial students throughout the country.

"As such, not only Chinese students would apply, but Malay, Indian, Kadazan, and Iban students, all could also apply," he said.

Dr Ling said for the first intake, UTAR had taken more Chinese students compared to other races due to the lack of information about UTAR as most of them were not aware of the existence of UTAR.

"We have rectified the problem and we are going to talk to the school counsellors so that they (counsellors) can give advice and all races can apply," said Dr Ling.

He also said other measures taken to attract more students from other races included keeping the fee as low as possible to enable the students to continue their tertiary education at UTAR.

Asked if UTAR would adopt racial quota on the intake of students, Dr Ling said this was unlikely because such a quota system would only limit the intake.

On the use of English in teaching Mathematics and Science at Chinese National Type Schools, he said this was being discussed among Barisan Nasional (BN) component parties.

Asked when the BN component parties representing the Chinese community would meet to resolve the issue, De Ling said: "Once all of us have sufficient ground work, we are very sure what we want to do, we would sit down and refined the ideas".

Asked if the meeting would be held before the end of this month, Dr Ling said "I don't want to set a limit".

The Chinese based BN components are MCA, Gerakan, Sarawak United People Party (SUPP), Sabah Progressive Party (SAPP) and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

-- BERNAMA

AT AHH AO