

DAP flays Liow for top scorers' university plight

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MCA has been slammed for not directly solving the issue of STPM top scorers who have failed to get their choice of courses in public universities.

Seputeh MP Teresa Kok, who yesterday complained that top scorers were being denied their desired courses in public universities, cited news reports in the Chinese mainstream media today that highlighted the plight of three state athletes.

Kok (right) noted how Bentong MP and MCA chief Liow Tong Lai held a press conference to highlight the case of one applicant from his constituency.

"When MCA rejoined the cabinet recently, Liow said that MCA did so for the Chinese community.

"I don't wish to touch on the question of the need for a cabinet minister to highlight a constituent's plight via a press conference, though I think Liow should just bring the matter up directly with the education minister," Kok said in a statement issued today.

She said it was now "obvious" that the problem of top scorers failing to obtain their favoured university courses was not isolated, but a "perennial problem".

"MCA ministers must raise the matter in the cabinet to bring about a fair and transparent university intake system and policy that will not waste and reject the nation's talents," she said.

According to the DAP leader, two of the athletes are straight A students from Ipoh, who opted for dentistry and medicine in Selangor and Kuala Lumpur, but were offered nursing in Sarawak and veterinary studies in Kelantan respectively.

Another top student in Liow's constituency was reported being offered nursing in Sarawak as well, despite applying for the medicine course at eight public universities.

'Reveal criteria now, Muhyiddin'

Kok also called on Education Minister Muhyiddin Yassin to come clean on the selection criteria that has resulted in the failure of these top scorers to get their placements.

"As public universities will begin their new semester on Sept 1, Education Minister Muhyiddin must immediately investigate the complaints aired by these top students.

"I wish to remind Muhyiddin that a simple explanation, such as 'there are limited places as the number of qualified applicants outnumbers the number of places' will not suffice to dispel public suspicion that unfair selection does exist," Kok added.

She complained yesterday that top scorers were being denied their desired courses in public universities, and today cited news reports in the Chinese mainstream media today that highlighted the plight of these students.

Kok demanded Muhyiddin, who is also deputy prime minister, "ensure transparency and reveal in detail the selection criteria".

"If indeed these top students have been unsuccessful because of limited places and that others who have succeeded are better qualified than them, there should be no hesitation for the universities to be totally transparent," she added

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