

Khairy: Vernacular schools safe under constitution
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Umno has broken its silence on the call to abolish vernacular schools, and has condemned the proposal.

Its Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin Abu Bakar said the establishment of vernacular schools had been agreed upon by the founding fathers of the country, and is guaranteed in the constitution.

"So don't go questioning the constitution. Vernacular schools are already part of the national education system," he told a press conference at party headquarters in Kuala Lumpur this afternoon.

"We will together ensure that the education system is improved and that the vernacular schools which are getting help and grants from the Education Ministry will continue getting assistance.

"But to question (something that) is provided for in the constitution, I don't agree."

Khairy was referring to the recent call by the Malay Consultative Council (MPM) to abolish vernacular schools and to replace them with a single-stream education system.

Police reports against MPM

Khairy, although late in the game, added to the brickbats from fellow BN component party leaders in slamming the group.

MCA and MIC Youth leaders have lodged police reports against the Malay-rights group.

MCA deputy publicity bureau chairperson Loh Seng Kok said the MPM is blatantly flouting sedition laws with its remarks.

According to Section 190(1) of the Education Act, the education minister may establish national schools and national-type schools and shall maintain such schools subject to the provisions of the law.

The issue of vernacular schools has long been a bone of contention in society. However, Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak has promised to keep the status quo, until "society is ready for a change".

Asked to comment on the PAS Youth's statement blaming Valentine's Day and New Year's celebrations as a factor in baby dumping, Khairy was dismissive.

"I won't justify that remark with a statement. It is absolutely ridiculous," he scoffed.

PAS Youth chief Nasrudin Hassan had said the celebrations encourage free sex, leading to a spate of baby dumping in due course.

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