

Overhaul education system, govt urged
Malaysianmirror.com
23 October 2010

KUALA LUMPUR – The government has been urged to revamp the national education system and make it robust enough to last the next 20 to 30 years.

Puteri Umno delegate Idamoerni Zakaria said today that the current system leaves much to be desired, with a hotch-potch of ideas borrowed from various sources, including developed countries, and it had too many ingredients that have proven burdensome to children.

"Yes, some ideas can be carried out while most cannot. In the end, the concept of memorising without understanding happens and this continues until the children go to university. The result, our aim of producing rounded human capital turns into something like half-cooked rice," she said when supporting the motion on religion and education at the Umno general assembly here.

Idamoerni suggested that the government formed a special committee, comprising experts, to carry out a long term plan prior to the implementation of an education policy to ensure its contents met current needs.

Expressing Puteri Umno's support on efforts to make vocational and technical studies as the mainstream education, she said efforts to enhance such courses was important to change the society's perception of it being second class education or for those who failed academically.

To ensure vocational skills are relevant to industry, Puteri Umno suggested that the government gave incentives, like tax exemption for companies which accepted such graduates.

Idamoerni said Puteri Umno also wanted the government to study the formulation of a single stream education system in line with efforts to promote the 1Malaysia concept.

"The government has made a lot of changes and improvements in empowering national schools, but the frequent changes often confused and create problems to various parties, including teachers, students and parents, as well as involve high cost," she added.

She also suggested that the learning methodology in the Permata programme, which had been proven successful in moulding a more happier, confident, disciplined, controlled and caring child, be absorbed into the national education system, right from early education to pre-school and from primary school to secondary school.

"This is the human capital we dreamt of," she added.

In a related development, Bernama reported that a delegate from the Federal Territory UMNO had suggested that vocational and technical subjects should be introduced as early as in Form 1 to allow students who are weak to take up skill training.

Cheras Umno Youth chief Syed Medhar Syed Abdullah said students who did not do well in their Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) should be given the opportunity to take up vocational or technical subjects in secondary school.

Another Umno Youth delegate, Mohd Gasing Saling, wanted the Education Ministry to make vocational studies an optional stream.

The Kalabakan Umno Youth chief said 50% of students in Europe opted for vocational studies and they were given the choice to do so when in Form 1 and not in Form 4.

He also wanted the government to review the salary of graduates from vocational centres who were paid between RM500 and RM700 a month.

Copyright © 2009 www.malaysiamirror.com

Source : <http://www.malaysianmirror.com/media-buzz-detail/6-nation/50108>