

Education Institutes Should Be Opened Up For All

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The remarks by Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Vice Chancellor Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar are seditious and inflammatory as he had called for Malay leaders to rise up to the occasion to defend UiTM whenever the issue of opening the university up to non-Bumiputeras arises.

This is wrong as the education sector plays an important goal in uniting people of all races and such statements can be seen as an attempt to undermine the unity and harmony of the Malaysian people.

While Prime Minister Najib Razak had announced that the government would offer 1,000 more places annually for post-Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) Indian students to pursue matriculation courses at public institutions of education, Sahol's call for Malay leaders to defend UiTM is in direct contrast to the Prime Minister's promise and is against the Prime Minister's commitment to promote programmes and policies in line with the 1Malaysia spirit.

I thus urge the Ministry of Higher Education to seriously look into this matter and to take the appropriate action in dealing with Sahol for his racist statement, and that he be dismissed and punished to serve as a deterrent for others.

As educators, Sahol should have instead supported the opening up of the university in order to improve the university's competitiveness and academic standards which in turn will help the country to cultivate more talents for the nation's efforts. However, his actions are like those of an extremist who intends to fan the flames and incite racial sentiments

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