



Najib says the Government is aware of MYC's role among youth organisations.

# Najib keen on student activities off campus

**TAIPING:** The Government will consider amending the Universities and University Colleges Act to allow undergraduates to join youth associations outside their campuses.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said it was a novel idea to encourage more youth to be active in youth associations and have more say in the country's development.

Speaking at the closing of the Malaysian Youth Council's (MYC) 56th annual general meeting yesterday, Najib said he would discuss the matter with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, adding he was confident Abdullah would welcome the proposal.

The proposal was made by the MYC at the opening of its AGM on Saturday. Mowing more youth to join associations would help create a new pool of young leaders who could help in national development.

MYC also called on the Government to acknowledge its role as the main youth body and to define its functions in the proposed National Youth Act 2006.

The then council president Datuk Seri Dr Mohd Khir Toyo said the Youth and Sports Ministry did not acknowledge the movement's role in the proposed Act although talks had been held between the ministry and the movement.

He added if MYC's role was not defined it would become just like another association and "die a natural death".

This would be sad because MYC had contributed a lot to the country since its incep-

tion in 1948.

Khir, who is Selangor MB, also called on the Government to empower the MYC to appoint youth representatives to the National Youth Consultative Council.

Under the proposed Act there is a provision which empowered only the Minister of Youth and Sports to appoint the representative.

Najib said the Government was aware of MYC's role among youth organisations and how it had brought together 40 organisations of diverse racial and religious backgrounds to help in the nation's development.

"The Government acknowledges the role played by MYC. The message we receive is loud and clear — the Government will consider MYC's requests," he said.

Earlier in his speech, Najib urged youth leaders and members to be more critical, creative, innovative and constructive in their approach towards everything.

He said the world today had changed and youth must go along with the changes if they wanted to be recognised and acknowledged, otherwise they would be left behind.

Khir yesterday stepped down from his post in MYC. He was replaced by MYC deputy president Shamsul Anuar Nasarah who won uncontested. The deputy president post went to Datuk Idris Haron, the Malacca MYC youth chairman and also MP for Tenggara Batu.

Najib also later presented the Bintang Belia Jasa Belia Malaysia awards to foreign representatives at the AGM.