

'STRICT DRESS CODE SHOULD GO'

Form Six students should be allowed to start school later, skip assembly

IYLIA MARSYA ISKANDAR
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

FORMER and current Form Six students have urged for more flexibility within the school compound for a more comfortable and less school-like environment for pre-university studies.

They welcomed Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim's statement yesterday that Form Six education should be given more space and be less bound by rules.

Firzana Mohd Firdaus, 21, said there should be flexibility with the dress code as some schools

made it compulsory for students to wear only baju kurung and formal attire to schools.

"In the beginning, I felt a little restricted by the dress code at my school.

"As long as Form 6 students are still dressed formally and appropriately, they should be allowed to wear what they want.

"I believe etiquette is important and baju kurung is not the only formal dress," the Teaching English as a Second Language student said.

She said she was once chased by a school senior assistant who deemed her baju kurung "too sexy".

"The rest (other rules) I think is normal. I understand that Form Six is still part of the school, so of course there will be the same rules for all students.

"I believe the quality of education in Form Six is the best for pre-university."

On Saturday, Anwar said Form

Six education should not be too bound by school rules and should be given space even on school grounds.

He said the Form Six environment needed to be changed as it was post-secondary school education, like matriculation.

He said he would speak to Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek on the matter.

Ariana Ali Azman, 21, said there should be flexibility in schooling hours and daily assembly attendance.

"Some rules are unnecessary. I believe school rules are important, but for Form Six students, there should be a difference with other students.

"It would be good if we have a separate break-time from other students.

"I think Form Six students should skip the school assembly, too."

She said Form Six students should also be allowed to start

school later than other students.

She said it would be good to let Form Six students manage more activities instead of only joining activities with other students at school.

Zaahira Zulkifli, 24, said while she would like more flexibility, she felt the rules at her Form Six centre were sufficient.

She said at her Form Six centre, she could don formal clothing other than baju kurung and could bring devices such as smartphones and laptops to classes.

She agreed that Sixth Formers should be allowed to start classes later and skip the assembly.

"I think the flexibility we have is sufficient, but I feel attending the school assembly is not needed.

"The timing should be flexible as well. Maybe we can start classes around 7.30am to 8am?"

"If we are late, it's quite embarrassing to be scolded in front of other students."