

UUCA 1971: Draft Amendments Scheduled To Be Tabled In Parliament In March
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KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 12 (Bernama) -- Draft amendments to the University and University Colleges Act (UUCA) 1971 are scheduled to be tabled in Parliament in March next year, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

In a statement here Monday, he said his ministry through a special committee working on the amendments would seek comprehensive feedback from universities on proposed changes to Section 15 of the act before the draft amendments were finalised by the end of next month.

"This is to ensure the changes are in line with the Federal constitution particularly on Article 10 on the right to freedom of speech, form associations and hold peaceful assemblies," he said.

Section 15 in the act imposes restrictions on these freedoms.

"I have been made to understand several dialogue sessions will be held, one involving Universiti Teknologi Malaysia's (UTM) Students Representatives Council (SRC) on Dec 18, Universiti Sains Malaysia's SRC on Dec 20 besides roundtables with the Deputy Higher Education Minister. I believe many more such sessions will be held at universities," he said.

The committee which comprises 10 members is chaired by International Islamic University, Malaysia deputy rector Prof Dr Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmud.

Mohamed Khaled added that all universities should hold talks on the matter with their students and academic staff and submit their recommendations to the committee either through meetings or through the social media network.

According to Mohamed Khaled, the government had agreed to make the amendments with the emphasis on two principles, which were to allow university students to join political parties and involve in political activities off campus but ensure universities were free of party politics internally.

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