

Students Joining Politics Must Be Wise In Assessing Views
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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 9 (Bernama) - Students wanting to join politics must be wise in assessing views and the nation's political struggle to avoid becoming puppets to interested parties.

Umno Youth chief Khairy Jamaluddin said as heirs to the nation's legacy, the students must listen and study political views of various parties before stating their support.

"Don't listen to the views of one party and support in haste. They have to choose who are good as certain parties want to make puppets of students," he said when contacted by Bernama.

In Nov last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that the government would amend Section 15 of Universities and University Colleges Act (AUKU) 1971 to allow students to become members of political parties.

Khairy said political exposure would make the students mature, resilient and capable of assessing and scrutinising various political views.

"I don't agree with the proposal to stop students from joining politics as the experience can educate as they will one day take over the country's leadership," he added.

Malaysian Youth Council president Mohamed Maliki Mohamed Rapiee said students should be wise in assessing a political struggle to ensure that it is focused on the people's interest.

"Students have to prove that they are defenders of the people, not mere politicians and capable of changing the nation's political landscape.

"Being wise, they must be better than the current politicians and need to change the nation's politics from one that is offensive to intellectual."

Maliki said the students should not only play party politics but must also voice their views on certain issues.

"As such, students who wish to engage in politics must be treated as politicians and have the determination and patience to face the pitfalls of politics."

Vice-president 1 of Peninsula Malay Students Federation (GPMS) Hasnul Fairuz Hushin Amri said students joining politics must understand world politics, not only Malaysian politics.

"The students who are smart and aggressive must show wisdom by not becoming obsessed from listening to views of only one party."

Hasnul supports the proposal to limit political activities of students to only outside campus area.

"The campus should focus on learning as students can be active in politics outside. Don't be too rigid by banning politics altogether," he said.

On Jan 26, AUKU 1971 Amendment Committee Chairman, Prof Nik Ahmad Kamal Nik Mahmood said the committee accepted the proposal that students could be active in politics outside campus.

Assoc Prof of Ahmad Ibrahim Law Faculty, International Islamic University Malaysia, Dr Shamrahayu Abd Aziz is sceptical on putting up a 'border'.

"I'm not against the proposal as it is good but its hard to ensure that students leave political sentiments at the campus gates and put them back on when outside.

"Its hard to stop students from talking about politics on campus. The most effective mechanism is to block political parties from giving talks in campus," she said.

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