

Three Bills To Be Amended To Allow Students To Join Politics
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KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- University students will be allowed to join political parties when amendments to three relevant bills are passed by the Dewan Rakyat.

The University and University Colleges (Amendment) Bill, Private Higher Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill and the Educational Institutions (Discipline) (Amendment) Bill were tabled for first reading by Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin at the Dewan Rakyat's sitting Monday.

These amendments will replace the existing provisions which restrict students from becoming members of political parties, but will not them to engage in political activities on campus to maintain neutrality at varsities.

This includes subsection 15(2) of the University and University Colleges (Amendment) Bill, subsection 47(2) of the Private Higher Educational Institutions (Amendment) Bill and subsection 10(2) of the Educational Institutions (Discipline) (Amendment) disallow university students from contesting in campus elections or hold any posts in university organisations if they are part of a political party.

They will also not be allowed to carry out political activities on campus, as well as become members of any illegal organisations or societies on or outside campus.

Amendments to the three bills also free students to make statements on academic matters related to their studies or research.

Besides that, amendment to Section 21 of the University and University Colleges Bill call for a Student Complaints Committee to be formed to conduct investigations and inquiries on complaints made by students according to methods determined by the statute.

The committee will consist of the Vice-Chancellor as chairman, two members selected by the Students Council, two members selected by the University's alumni or Graduates Association and two officers appointed by the board.

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