

Selangor Sultan Reminds UPM Students Against Being Influenced By Negative Culture
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SERDANG, Oct 16 (Bernama) -- The Sultan of Selangor, Sultan Sharafuddin Idris Shah, has reminded students of Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) not to be easily influenced by negative culture such as getting involved in partisan politics in campus, street demonstrations and demanding freedom of expression as championed by certain quarters concerned only with their political ideology.

The sultan, who is also the chancellor of UPM, cited the example of a recent incident where a group of young people went to the extent of wanting to change the Malaysian flag which had become a global identity and symbol of sovereignty and unity as well as pride of the nation.

He said he hoped that the students and alumni of UPM would have a strong spirit of patriotism to the country and would not arbitrarily fiddle with the nation's sovereignty by attempting to change the flag or do anything which could undermine Malaysia's image.

"If we observe, people in developed countries have much respect for their countries and flags, and are prepared to die in safeguarding their countries' flags. Let's not go for empty victories without being able to achieve the real objective of being in the university," he said at the 36th convocation of UPM.

The sultan reminded the students that they could follow current political developments in the country by not getting too involved or being obsessed with politics to the extent of neglecting and forgetting the objective of attending university to garner knowledge.

"UPM students and graduands should fulfil the demands of university students and graduands to safeguard noble values and integrity. Do not ever tarnish the good name of the university by getting involved in negative activities such as corruption, untrustworthiness and abuse of authority," he said.

Sultan Sharafuddin advised the students to focus primarily on their studies, saying that knowledge was the key strength in determining the success of students and graduands now and in the future.

"Without the strength of knowledge, the nation cannot be developed fully, and we will be dependent on the goodwill of the developed countries. We must remember that many other students have not got the opportunity to attend university or any other institution of higher learning. As such, do not waste this opportunity and do not disappoint your parents and family members," he said.

The sultan said he hoped that the graduands would make use of this culture of knowledge so that it flowed from generation to generation to build a quality and more progressive Malaysian civilisation.

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