

## **Former VC: Not wrong for UiTM students to join UMNO rally**

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**By Mohamad Fadli**

### **Prof Emeritus Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar says UiTM was created by Umno, so its anniversary celebrations form part of the students' learning process.**

PETALING JAYA: UMNO has the right to ask Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) to mobilise its students to take part in the party's 71st anniversary celebrations at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium tonight, says Prof Emeritus Sahol Hamid Abu Bakar.

The former vice-chancellor of UiTM pointed out that the university was created by UMNO for Malays and bumiputeras.

"It is, therefore, not wrong for UMNO to ask UiTM to send its students (for the party's celebrations). It's a learning process, part of the knowledge they should have.

"The origins of UiTM should be made known to its students. UiTM is a university for Malays and bumi (bumiputera). UMNO is a Malay party. So, it's logical it (the rally) should be attended by Malay students," he told FMT.

He was commenting on criticism by opposition party PKR, which today questioned the decision of the UiTM Shah Alam campus to instruct its students to take part in a rally at the Bukit Jalil stadium this evening, to coincide with UMNO's anniversary celebrations.

PKR Youth deputy chief Dr Afif Bahardin said he was informed by the parents of some students of a circular instructing those involved in co-curricular activities to gather at the UiTM field this morning.

Another group of students from uniformed bodies was instructed to gather at 2pm today.

Afif urged UiTM vice-chancellor Hassan Said to clarify the gatherings and whether they constituted "organised efforts to mobilise and manipulate the students".

Sahol however said opposition parties should not practise double standards in this matter.

"All (political) parties do it. Opposition parties do the same without knowing what the students want," he said.

FMT is awaiting a response from UiTM.

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