

We'll sue if you recognise UEC, Perkasa tells govt

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Malay NGO claims the Chinese independent school exam threatens the nation's sovereignty.

KUALA LUMPUR: Malay right-wing group Perkasa has threatened to sue the government should Putrajaya recognise the Unified Examination Certificate (UEC).

The group's education and human capital development bureau chairman, Sirajudin Mohd Salleh, said it will drag the government to court to get the UEC cancelled regardless of the justification given for its approval.

He said it would do so even if the UEC fulfilled the higher education ministry's requirements.

The UEC is a standardised test for Chinese independent high school students, organised by Chinese education group Dong Zong since 1975.

At a roundtable meeting held to discuss the UEC, Sirajudin argued that the syllabus would not only have a negative impact on national unity but would also threaten the nation's sovereignty.

"The government must take into account the Federal Constitution, the laws as well as the nation's interests when deciding on UEC."

Meanwhile, one of the panellists at today's event, Prof Teo Kok Seong, urged the Chinese community to reject the UEC and enrol their children in public universities instead.

Teo, who is a fellow at the Institute of Ethnic Studies in Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, said if the UEC is recognised, it will see many Chinese students opting for it.

He said this would lead to a racial imbalance in public universities.

Last month, it was reported that the higher education ministry was willing to consider recognising the UEC for purposes of entry to public universities if it meets certain conditions.

The UEC is not accepted nationwide for entry to public universities as the curriculum used is not in line with the national curriculum, as stated in the Education Act 1996.

Last month, Umno information chief Annuar Musa urged Putrajaya to recognise UEC or risk losing more local talent to foreign countries.

Since Malaysian public universities don't recognise UEC, students who take this test in independent Chinese secondary schools enrol in private universities or colleges that accept UEC, locally or overseas.

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