

Book distorted facts, say MCA, Gerakan and MIC

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KUALA LUMPUR: The MCA, Gerakan and MIC spoke out against the contents of a university guidebook on ethnic relations yesterday, saying they are incorrect and distorted historical facts.

The MCA deems the course book used by Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) as unsuitable teaching material as the facts are incorrectly presented and biased, said its president, Datuk

Seri Ong Ka Ting.

He said the party was informed by the Higher Education Ministry that the book's content will be corrected, and welcome such a move.

Ong said the country's independence was achieved by all the races and any reference or textbook used to teach ethnic relations must be balanced and take care of the sensitivities of all the races.

"The book must also take note of all contributions by the communities in working together to achieve independence," he said after a party presidential council meeting.

Gerakan Youth chief Datuk Mah Siew Keong said the party protested strongly against the book which stated that Gerakan's general election victory procession and statements were among the reasons for the riots

of May 13, 1969.

"This is a distortion of historical facts," he said in a statement.

Mah said the guidebook was misleading, baseless and contradicted Gerakan's non-racial approach and its initiative in promoting national unity and ethnic harmony.

MIC secretary-general Dr S. Subramaniam questioned the approach used in the book.

The parliamentary secretary to the Housing and Local Government Ministry took issue with the book's description of the 2001 Kampung Medan incident.

He told reporters at Parliament lobby the academicians who wrote the book should have gathered verified facts from more people rather than rely on an isolated statement from an individual as was done.