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Umno Youth to champion 10 proposals of concern to public

KUALA LUMPUR: Umno Youth wants the government to check on what is perceived to be discrimination against bumiputera workers by non-bumiputera companies so the private sector would have more bumiputera professionals.

This is among 10 proposals to resolve several issues raised by Umno Youth head Khairy Jamaluddin when delivering his policy speech at the Umno Youth General Assembly 2013, yesterday.

"We accept that some may say in the recruitment of workers, the bumiputeras are given priority in the public sector. But in terms of senior management, more secretaries-general of the ministries are appointed from among the non-bumiputera.

"Unfortunately until today, it is still difficult to see any Malay being appointed chief executive officers in companies owned by the other ethnic groups," he said.

Issues relating to small- and medium-sized contractors, the farming community, and the welfare system also drew the attention of the Umno Youth head.

He suggested that the government diversify small-scale projects through the initiatives of the Bumiputera Empowerment Unit while at the same time finding ways to widen opportunities for credible small- and medium-sized contractors.

Khairy also suggested that the

government review the approach adopted by companies supervised by the government in purchasing building materials such as cement, stones, sand, and steel.

As such, Umno Youth urged the government to speed up the formation of an entity that could buy building materials in bulk and sell them to small- and medium-sized contractors at a reasonable price, he said.

Khairy, who is also the Youth and Sports Minister, suggested that the number of skilled trainees taken by the training institutes be increased too as the number of Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia holders each year touched almost 500,000 besides calling for emphasis to be given to vocational and skills training.

In his speech, Khairy suggested that farmers, fishermen and the breeders themselves could control the value chain for agricultural products with assistance from government agencies.

"The AP [Approved Permit] system for agricultural products should be implemented in a transparent and open manner to avoid the formation of a monopoly or cartel that will only benefit a certain group.

"Through these detailed measures, Umno Youth is certain that the people will derive benefits in

terms of the more reasonable market price created," he said.

Umno Youth also urged the government to review the existing welfare system including increasing the monthly allocation, so that they truly helped the needy groups.

On the hike in the electricity rates, the Youth movement wants Tenaga Nasional Bhd and government-linked companies (GLCs) not to be obsessed with financial performance alone to the extent that they neglect their responsibility to the people, he said.

Touching on the Auditor-General's Report, Khairy said Umno Youth took a serious view of the matter and called for stern action to be taken against those proven guilty of any wrongdoing.

In his proposals, Khairy also suggested that the government increase the allocation for the Ministry of Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government as well as Kuala Lumpur City Hall to build affordable homes for the younger generation.

It was also suggested that a special quota of 20% or 30% be created for the younger group in every Youth Representative Committee (JPP) so that their requirements could be taken into consideration by the government in line with the formation of the JPP in 140 local authorities in the country soon.

— *Bernama*

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Khairy's speech included a call on the government to check what is perceived to be discrimination against bumiputera workers by non-bumiputera companies.