

Do not exploit students for political agendas, says STAR leader

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KOTA KINABALU: Parti Solidariti Tanah Airku (STAR) division chief for N.6 Bandau, Ardino Diris, has voiced concern over the actions of a group of students from Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) who recently urged the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) to take action against all Sabah elected representatives allegedly linked to a sabotage scandal.

He stressed that urging the MACC to act under external pressure is inappropriate, as the commission is an independent institution that operates based on investigative procedures and legal protocols.

"It is not appropriate for any party, including student groups, to direct the MACC to act on the basis of pressure or political demand.

"The MACC has its own

mechanisms for conducting investigations and must not be influenced by outside sentiment," he said in a statement on Friday.

According to Ardino, any investigation must be carried out professionally and free from political pressure, as hasty action would not only affect the MACC's credibility but also undermine the integrity of the national justice system.

He also expressed concern over the possibility of interested parties attempting to influence the student group involved.

"I am genuinely worried that this group of students may have been used by certain parties for political purposes. If this is true, it is an irresponsible act and reflects immature politics," he said firmly.

Ardino, who is also GRS Treasurer-General, asserted that students should be given the

space to focus on their studies and personal development, and not be used as tools to serve any political interest.

At the same time, he advised students to think rationally and not be easily swayed by external provocation.

"Students must be wise in assessing situations and understand that their role will come when the time is right – namely, through legitimate democratic channels such as elections," he said.

He also called on all parties to safeguard academic freedom and ensure that the younger generation is not drawn into unhealthy political manoeuvring.

"We must ensure university students remain independent, think critically, and are not made victims of narrow political manipulation," he stressed.