

Crucial to know importance of academic freedom

October 7, 2023 @ 12:20am



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LETTERS: It is difficult for students and academicians to contribute to society without academic freedom.

In 2018, the government amended the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 (UUCA), the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 (PHEIA) and the Educational Institutions (Discipline) Act 1976 (EIDA).

The first amendment was carried out to remove subsection (c) of Section 15 (2) of the UUCA, which previously banned students from taking part in political activities at universities and colleges.

The second amendment was to remove subsection (c) of Section 47 (2) of the PHEIA, which previously banned students from taking part in political activities at private universities.

The third amendment was to remove subsection (c) of Section 10 (2) of the EIDA to give students the right to be involved in political activities on campus.

With these amendments, students can express their views without being arrested or subjected to disciplinary hearing.

So, in conjunction with Academia Day, which is celebrated every Oct 5, it's crucial for us to understand the importance of academic freedom.

There have been calls for the government to remove the UUCA.

The government must meet those who sought UUCA's abolition to understand their concerns.

The government must engage with students and academicians to discuss academic freedom.

We must encourage our young to speak freely and allow them to think critically.

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The views expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect those of the New Straits Times