



Caretaker Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar (centre) speaking with students at the Peranti Siswa handing-over ceremony at Universiti Putra Malaysia in Serdang yesterday. PIC BY HAIRUL ANUAR RAHIM

## ELECTRONIC VOTING

# 'ALLOW STUDENTS TO VOTE BY POST'

It's too costly for them to buy flight tickets home, says Wan Junaidi

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**T**HE government should allow university students to vote via post since it's costly for them to buy flight tickets home, said Datuk Seri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar yesterday.

The caretaker minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law) said: "We have Undi18, but we don't give them (a chance) to vote.

"How can they (afford) to fly to Kuching, to Sabah, Kelantan, Perlis and Penang in 24 hours?

"There are not enough flights too. If we can do (postal votes) for the army and the police, why can't we do it for students as well."

He said this after the Peranti Siswa handing-over ceremony at Universiti Putra Malaysia here.



He said electronic voting should be carried out to reduce the cost of holding elections.

He said the United States had been carrying out electronic voting since 2005 by allowing people to vote "by the roadside" via a dedicated device.

"During the Sarawak state elections last year, there were 55,000 election workers. How much did that cost?

"We're spending more than RM1 billion to hold elections if they are held simultaneously, but if they were held in stages, we'd spend more."

He added that technology should be used to cut polls spending.

"We could fly to Sabah and Sarawak with the dedicated de-

vices (for voting), especially to rural areas.

"But we have to first ensure that there is Internet access in rural areas and that the system used cannot be hacked."

The *New Straits Times* had on Wednesday front-paged the plight of first-time voters and students, who said they might not return home to vote in the 15th General Election due to the high cost of travel.

Meanwhile, Wan Junaidi remained tight-lipped over rumours that he would not seek re-election in Santubong, Sarawak.

Wan Junaidi, a four-term member of parliament, said he would wait for the announcement by the Gabungan Parti Sarawak leadership before issuing a statement.

"Let's wait for (Sarawak) Premier (Tan Sri Abang Johari Tun Openg) to make an announcement and then I will comment.

"I am loyal to the party. If the party is silent, then I will be silent."

Sources had said that Wan Junaidi had proposed that his party, Parti Pesaka Bumiputera Bersatu, nominate his political secretary, Datuk Seri Syed Hamzah Syed Paie, instead.