

RI students' grassroots involvement 'misrepresented'

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Today, 18 January 2011

The grassroots work done in Boon Lay by Raffles Institution students is not political activity, People's Association (PA) deputy chairman Lim Boon Heng said yesterday.

They were "curious" about the inner workings of Meet-the-People sessions and eventually decided to do more for the community under the umbrella of the PA. "But it got misrepresented," he said at the Singapore Perspectives 2011 conference.

The youth club was set up in 2003 by five students, including the son of Member of Parliament Ho Geok Choo, whose ward is Boon Lay.

Two weeks ago, former Nominated MP Siew Kum Hong wrote a news commentary in *Today* that "partisan activities" should not be "endorsed by the Ministry of Education or schools".

But Mr Lim, a Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, cited the students as a good example, in response to academic Phua Kai Hong's question about getting more youth to visit the aged in homes here instead of embarking on "voluntourism" projects overseas.