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Mustapa-Mara

AUDIT REPORT ON MARA'S FINANCES BEING BRUSHED UP

PEKAN, April 21 (Bernama) -- Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said he had received the initial report of the special committee auditing the management and financial position of Mara, while the final report was expected to be ready within a week after several modifications were made.

Modifications were being made on parts of the final report, he told reporters after attending the opening of the Al-Amin surau at Kampung Tanjung, Langgar here. Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, officially opened the surau.

Asked whether there were problems Mustapa said, "It is a matter of touching up and not problems."

He would study the report before handing it to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The date to send the report to Dr Mahathir had not been decided, he said.

Asked about follow up action, he said whatever action to be taken would be based on the report and had to be referred to Dr Mahathir first.

On newspaper reports of three Malaysian students, including two sponsored by Mara who went to the United States to continue their studies but could not be traced, he said the government would try to locate them but it was a difficult task as the United States was a vast country.

He said it was an isolated matter but advised Malaysian students overseas to return home on completion of their studies.

A student sponsored by the Public Services Department (PSD), Mohd Azmi Abu Kassim, studying at Texas University was last reported to have sent a letter to his family in 1986 while two Mara-sponsored students, Abdul Kadir Hassan (University of California) and Khalid Deman (University of South Western Louisiana) were last reported to have done so in 1992 and 1991.

Najib, commenting on the matter said if they wanted to reside in other countries it was their right.

"But if they are government-sponsored students, we can claim the money given to them," he said. -- BERNAMA

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