

09 MAY 1996

Anwar-Mara

MEASURES TO TACKLE MARA'S PROBLEMS OUT NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, May 9 (Bernama) -- The government will announce measures to tackle Mara's financial problems next week.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said they would be revealed after discussions with Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed who is responsible for Mara.

The audit report on Mara was submitted to Anwar and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently.

Anwar, who is the Finance Minister, instructed the Treasury to scrutinise the new application for Mara's expenditure.

"Mara is committed to a large budget which was not approved before and we don't want this to jeopardise educational development," he told reporters after opening the corporate headquarters building of Koperasi Usaha Bersatu Malaysia Bhd (KUB), the Umno-sponsored cooperative, at Pekeliling Business Centre here.

He said the interest of students financed by Mara must not be sacrificed merely because of the agency's mistakes.

Early this year, the government set up a financial and management audit committee to investigate the cause of the financial crisis in Mara.

Strapped for funds, Mara stopped giving out scholarships and loans to students who it had agreed to sponsor for studies in institutions of higher learning locally and abroad.

Anwar said every government agency should submit its budget for the approval of the federal government.

"The Treasury cannot entertain appeals every month. We have to plan our expenditures annually and for the following years," he said. -- BERNAMA

RAZ CTL