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Universities-Medical

UM AND USM MAY CONSIDER ACCEPTING AFFECTED MEDICAL STUDENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 23 (Bernama) -- Universiti Malaya and Universiti Sains Malaysia may consider accepting the Malaysian students who face the possibility of not being able to continue their studies in India due to a court action.

The two universities said today they were prepared to consider the matter if there was a directive from the Education Ministry.

The 85 second to final year students were informed last month that their results were being withheld pending a decision on a court action against their college for exceeding its intake of foreign students.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, speaking in Bangalore yesterday, said the affected students of the M.S. Ramaiah Medical College in that south Indian city might be sent to other colleges or brought back to Malaysia if government efforts failed to resolve the problem.

Universiti Malaya's deputy registrar for admissions, Puan Khalidah Mushar, said the university would study the issue first before taking any decision on accepting the students.

"Right now, UM has not received anything in black and white from the Education Ministry concerning the matter," she said when contacted by Bernama.

Khalidah said various aspects had to be considered including the differing curriculum and number of years of studies required by the Indian college and UM.

Universiti Sains Malaysia's dean for the school of medical studies, Dr Mafauzy Mohamed, said the university was willing to accept the students if they met its entry requirements.

"We will only accept those who are eligible. Besides, there are limited places in the school of medical studies," he said when contacted.

He said the affected students would have to compete with those who have completed their matriculation studies or Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) when seeking places in USM.

Dr Mafuzy said USM would have to look into the the academic achievements of the students in India so far when considering any application from them.

He did not rule out the possibility of the students having to start from the first year of studies at USM. -- BERNAMA

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