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Enhancing Bumi role in MSC

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - The Entrepreneur Development Ministry is formulating a programme to facilitate participation of Bumiputera entrepreneurs in the Multimedia Super Corridor.

Its Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said the Ministry was currently holding discussions with Mimos Berhad to draft the entrepreneur development programme.

"However, the scope of MSC is very wide and the Ministry needs to first equip its officials with all the necessary information on MSC," he said after attending the LimKokWing Institute of Creative Technology graduation ceremony here today.

Also present were LICT president Tan Sri Lim Kok Wing, LICT governing council chairman Tan Sri Awang Had Salleh and deputy chairman Datuk Sulaiman Osman.

Mustapa said the Ministry was already conducting courses for its officials to equip them with all information on the industry scope of the MSC.

He also said the Ministry would look into the possibility of sending Mara-sponsored students to LICT.

"I have discussed with LICT's president on the possibility of co-operation between Mara and LICT."

Mustapa said he had been informed that there was a very low percentage of Bumiputera students at the institute.

"I will probably send Mara's officials to LICT in one to two weeks to look into the possibility of sending Mara-sponsored students to undertake multimedia and design studies there."

He said Mara would probably start small as the sponsorship factor had to be studied. If the co-operation proved successful more students would be sent.

"The fee per student here is about RM8,000 a year and if the living costs are included it would probably come up to RM14,000 per student," Mustapa said.

Earlier in his speech, he said although the LICT was barely five years old it had built a credible reputation in creativity and innovation as well as in producing industry-relevant graduates.

"LICT's design students, for example, had the honour of representing Asia in the first Global Multimedia Challenge in France in 1995 and won the first and second categories in the Swatch Street Painting competition the same year," Mustapa said.

He said they were also placed third and won two certificates of distinction in the national concept car competition mooted by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We must create a passion for creativity technology among our students, one which they will nurture and carry for the rest of their lives."

Therefore, he said stress should be placed on a creative approach which encouraged critical thinking.

"A generation of leaders who are innovative and creative is necessary to go the additional mile," he added.

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