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Mara taking 230 loan defaulters to court

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BALIK PULAU, Sat. - Majlis Amanah Rakyat is finalising legal action against 230 of its study loan defaulters who will be charged within the year.

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said they were among the 800 defaulters whose names had been published in newspapers recently.

"While some of them have already been in touch with Mara and sought rescheduling or conversions for their payments, the rest have not even bothered."

He said this at a Press conference before launching the Mara Junior Science College culture declaration at the junior college in Balik Pulau, today.

Also present was Federation of MRSM alumni associations president Mukhriz Mahathir and Balik Pulau Assemblyman Datuk Dr Hilmi Yahaya.

On Press reports last week that 300 Mara loan defaulters would be taken to court, Mustapa said:

"Court action is necessary against the defaulters since they must assume some sense of responsibility, like the other 60 per cent who have come forward and begun repaying their loans.

"Apart from persuading these defaulters to pay, we are also talking to their guarantors," Mustapa added, saying that no guarantor had been charged to date.

He said the defaulters, who are now professionals in various fields, comprised mainly students who had gone abroad and had taken hefty loans.

He, however, did not disclose the amount.

"While most of them can afford to repay Mara, they somehow seem to think they have a right not to repay, although their agreements clearly state they have to," he said.

"We will, however, continue pursuing this matter in a kind, fair and compassionate manner."

Meanwhile, Mukhriz said some of the federation's 5,000 members were probably on Mara's list of loan defaulters.

"We will encourage these defaulters to repay their loans as it reflects badly on the federation and Mara," he added.

"Since we have a policy of active support for our members, we will not push them out as this will not help them to repay the loans."

Mukhriz also announced the federation's plan of holding a convention on Nov 1 to showcase the achievements of MRSM graduates.

He said the one-day "All Ansara Inaugural Convention", which will be held at the Hotel Nikko in Kuala Lumpur, would include an expo with more than 40 booths highlighting the successes of MRSM alumni in the corporate and industrial sectors.

"A seminar and dinner are also planned as a means of establishing a network of alumni," he added.

Earlier, Mustapa said the declaration culture adopted by MRSM was aimed at giving the junior college a more pronounced identity as a leading learning institution in the country.

"Among the elements incorporated in this culture are leadership qualities, high morals and entrepreneurship among MRSM students," he added.

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