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Union-University

MINISTERS ASKED TO SEND THEIR CHILDREN TO LOCAL UNIVERSITIES

KUCHING, Nov 7 (Bernama) -- The Sarawak Teachers' Union (STU) wants ministers and other elected representatives to send their children to local universities and colleges.

Its president William Gani Bina said these leaders should practice the "leadership by example" call by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, by themselves setting the example for others to follow.

"Only by taking this step will the rakyat have confidence in local universities," he said when contacted here today.

Yesterday, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim urged Malaysians to send their children for studies at local universities for their first degree programmes, saying local institutions were at par or even better than those overseas.

There are presently about 50,000 Malaysian students doing their first degree courses abroad, with 15,000 and 20,000 of them being sponsored by the federal and state governments respectively.

Gani said the ministers' preference in their children for overseas study would cause the people to lose confidence in local universities.

He said the government should send students abroad only for selective courses that would enhance their ability as the backbone of the government.

Students pursuing the language, science and technology courses should be sent for study abroad as they could help attract foreign investments and speed up development, he added. --BERNAMA

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