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Students get exam results after two-month delay

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - The examination results of almost all the 85 Malaysian students in Bangalore, withheld for more than two months following a court action to limit the number of students in a medical college, have been released.

The president of the Malaysian Students Association in Bangalore Mohd Razi Kamarulzaman said the results of 40 students of M.S. Ramaiah Medical College were released last Saturday and another 40 yesterday.

"The results were released by Bangalore University authorities," he said, adding that all examination papers were prepared by the university.

"Our results were handwritten on a piece of paper with no letterhead. The university authorities told us that we will be getting our official marks card in two or three days time," he told the New Straits Times in a telephone interview yesterday.

Mohd Razi said he had informed the Malaysian Embassy in Madras and the Public Services Department of the latest development.

He added that the results of five other students were still being withheld as the university authorities claimed that there was no documentation to prove that these students had registered with the college.

He said the fate of all the 85 students was, however, still uncertain.

"We may still have to leave the college if the court so decides."

Asked when the hearing would be held, Mohd Razi said the college authorities had not informed them of the date.

He said all the students had registered for the examinations this year.

"The final day for registration was last Thursday and we registered even though we had not received our results yet that day."

It is compulsory for students to enclose their marks card when registering for the examination. The college authorities, however, granted the students an exemption and allowed them to register without their marks card.

On Oct 24, the college informed the students that their results were being withheld pending a decision on a legal action taken by the Bangalore Education Board against the college for exceeding its intake quota of foreign students.

The Indian Supreme Court had ruled three years ago to limit the intake of foreign students but the medical college contends the ruling did not apply to it as it was governed by the bilateral memorandum of understanding on education.

Of the 85, 59 are PSD scholarship holders. The rest are self-sponsored. Thirty-one are in their final year.

There are 194 Malaysian students at the college.

On Dec 22 last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had assured the students that as a last resort, they would be sent to other universities or be brought back to Malaysia to finish their studies.

Mohd Razi said the "peaceful protest" held by the 85 students last Thursday succeeded in making the college lecturers aware of their problem.

"They gave us advice and words of encouragement."

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