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Senate-Debate

TACKLING CURRENCY CRISIS VIA TWINNING PROGRAMMES

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- A senator told the Dewan Negara today that twinning and franchise programmes between local universities and private institutions of higher learning could help tackle the financial crisis.

Senator Datuk Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman said local universities had the capacity to offer the programmes as their curriculum was on par with foreign universities.

Such programmes would enable students who failed to enter local universities could still pursue their tertiary education locally, he said when debating on the 1997 Finance Bill (Number Two).

He said such programmes would not incur high cost.

He said the franchise programmes could be carried out by many private institutions of higher learning in the east coast of Peninsular Malaysia as most of the local universities are in the west coast.

He said Islamic studies could also be pursued locally without having to go to the West Asian countries as the curriculum of local universities had been acknowledged to be compatible with that of foreign universities.

Senator Kamalia Ibrahim said the government should consider giving tax exemptions for parents who send their children overseas to pursue courses not available locally.

Senator Datuk Dr T. Marimuthu urged the Education Ministry to ensure adequate infrastructure facilities in local institutions of higher learning to cope with the increasing number of students.

Earlier, the senators pledged their unanimous support for the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Dewan Negara will sit again tomorrow. -- BERNAMA

NHD TS