

21 OCT 1998

Najib-Students

MAKE TIME TO BRIEF MALAYSIAN STUDENTS OVERSEAS, MINISTERS TOLD

PEKAN, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- Malaysian students overseas need to hear explanation from the country's leaders themselves about issues relating to political and economic situation in the country, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today.

He said ministers on official duties overseas should make time to meet the students to brief them on the challenges facing the country.

"I will be going to Australia at the end of the month to promote the Multimedia Super Corridor and will meet our students there," he told reporters after attending a briefing on last Monday's storm which hit six villages in Kuala Pahang.

He said the Malaysian students overseas did not have adequate information on the latest development in the country, forcing them to rely on news churned out by the foreign media.

Najib said it is the duty of Cabinet ministers to correct negative impressions of Malaysia over the CNN and CNBC TV networks as well as over the Internet.

Of late, he said the foreign media had been filing negative reports about Malaysia following the sacking of deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the government and Umno as well as the government's move to stabilise its currency and economy.

Najib also said the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's views on the need to regulate activities of currency traders had now drawn the world's attention.

"His views are no longer sidelined but recognised by the world," he said.

Najib, who is Pekan MP, also presented assistance to the victims of the storm which destroyed some 100 houses in just 10 minutes.

He said the ministry had allocated RM50,000 for immediate repairs of Sekolah Kebangsaan Indera Shahbandar which was damaged in the storm.

--BERNAMA

MAM ABG