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Samy-MIC

MIC TO BORROW RM3.2 MILLION TO HELP ITS STUDENTS OVERSEAS

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 26 (Bernama) -- The MIC will ask for a RM3.2 million education loan from the government to help finance some 80 ethnic Indian students studying medicine abroad who are adversely affected by the present ringgit depreciation.

Its president, Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said all those involved were studying at their own expenses at the University of West Indies in Trinidad and Tabago.

"The students cannot be recalled home because of the shortage of places at the local universities...and the only option is to ask the government for help," he told a news conference at the party headquarters here.

Samy Vellu who is also Works Minister stressed that the loan was only for the students there to complete their studies, and not for any new enrolment.

He said the university annual fee from the first to the final year was US75,000, but following the ringgit depreciation against the US dollar, an additional RM40,000 was needed by each student.

The MIC had three years ago secured places for 30 students to study medicine in addition to an earlier batch of 80 studying at the university there.

He said the party would send Prof Datuk T. Marimuthu to Trinidad and Tobago to plead with the university authority there to possibly reduce the fees, thus easing the students' burden.

He said the party was also reviewing the position of 75 students of Indian descent, presently studying at a medical college in Indonesia, which was not recognised by the Malaysian government.

"We are still negotiation with the college authority with the view to transfer the students to other medical institution, recognised by the government here," he added.

Samy Vellu also said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will open the this year's MIC general assembly on Aug 1.

--BERNAMA

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