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`Students will not be forced to return'

Azran Aziz

KUANTAN, Thurs. - The Government has no plan to compel students studying in universities abroad, including those sponsored by Public Services Department, to return home due to the economic problems.

Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman said the Government was only encouraging them to come back and that too, if places were available in local universities for them to continue their studies.

"To ruin the children's future and investment in their education is the last thing the Government will do," he said at the Sekolah Kebangsaan Cherating old boys' dinner last night.

He said it was important to clear the air as there were many enquiries from many parents who wanted to know if the Government would compel their children to return home under the present circumstances.

Fauzi said the opening of new universities would enable more students to pursue their tertiary education locally.

He also said the National Civics Bureau would revise the modules of courses for student leaders.

"All the while, it has been tutor-driven and we will now adopt the learner-driven approach," he said.

Towards this end, he said student leaders would be invited to assist the bureau in drawing up new modules for the courses.

"The feedback will enable the bureau to know what the students really want and incorporate them into the courses," he said.

Fauzi added the bureau would organise a seminar for student leaders in June and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was expected to deliver a keynote address.

About 350 undergraduates will participate in the seminar.

"Dr Mahathir will brief the students on the direction of the country and contemporary issues as well as the roles they can play in nation building," he added.

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