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Hamid-Thailand

MALAYSIA OFFERS SKILLS TRAINING FOR THAI MUSLIMS

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Malaysia has come forward to offer skills training for Thai Muslim students from the Narathiwat province in Southern Thailand.

The first batch of 60 students would undergo the training at the Mara Skills Training Institutes and Mara Activity Centres in Kelantan and Terengganu beginning next week.

Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman said this was the first time Malaysia was extending the opportunity for them to acquire technical skills which were badly needed in the neighbouring country.

Hamid and Mara Activity Centre chief executive Hashim Ahmad received the students at a function in Narathiwat today. Narathiwat Governor Phong Payom Wasphuthi was also present.

The programme is jointly initiated by the Islamic Development Department of Malaysia (Jakim) and Mara.

Hamid said students enrolled in Mara Skills Training Institutes would undergo two-year training while those in Mara Activity Centres eight months.

He said Mara would finance their training.

He said female students would also be recruited for the training in future intakes.

Dr Hamid said Malaysia accepted Thai Muslims for the training programme following a request from Thai Foreign Minister Dr Surin Pitsuwan to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in April last year.

The offer was also in line with the cooperation between Malaysia and Thailand under the Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) concept to develop the economies of northern Malaysian states and Southern Thailand.

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