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THAILAND REQUESTS FOR MORE PLACES IN MARA SKILLS CENTRES

PASIR MAS, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- Thailand has informally asked Malaysia whether more Thai youths can enrol in Mara skills training institutes (IKMs), according to Rural Development Minister Datuk Mohamad Nazri Abdul Aziz.

He said this was raised by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai when he met Malaysian counterpart Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently.

Last year 55 Thai youths from southern Thailand began undergoing certificate

-level courses at IKMs in Kelantan and in Besut, he told reporters after inspecting the IKM in Lubok Jong here yesterday.

He said the ministry had decided to set aside places for 115 more Thai students this year and expand the courses.

Twenty more IKMs would be built nation-wide under the Eighth Malaysia Plan to complement the existing 11, including the one here, which was built in 1998 costing almost RM20 million.

The Pasir Mas IKM would be the first to introduce diploma courses in industrial electronics, electrical technology, architecture, civil technology and mechanical technology for 100 students starting April.

-- BERNAMA

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