

08 JUL 2000

UMNO APPOINTS STUDENT MESSENGERS ABROAD

BALING, July 8 (Bernama) -- Umno has appointed several former students overseas as messengers between the party and students studying abroad, said Umno secretary general Tan Sri Khalil Yaacob.

He said duties of the former students include explaining on the struggles of the party as well as on government policies and, at the same time, to counter the falsehoods spread by the opposition.

The Umno messengers overseas were picked by party president Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad from among former students as they understood the situation overseas students are in better, he told reporters after closing a Baling Umno division convention here today.

Khalil, who is Information Minister, said several more such appointments will be made.

Student affairs overseas have up till now been under the purview of the Malaysian embassies.

"We are appointing our own people to handle this. They are not with our embassies and whatever reports they have will be sent directly to the party," he said.

Following the effectiveness of Umno clubs overseas, Khalil said there are now plans to establish Barisan Nasional clubs.

"This will be discussed further with other component parties of the BN," he said.

-- BERNAMA
ZM/MZM THG