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Students

MARA GETS APPROVAL TO SEND 400 STUDENTS ABROAD THIS YEAR

KOTA KINABALU, July 17 (Bernama) -- Mara, the agency tasked with Bumiputera upliftment, has secured government approval to sponsor up to 400 students abroad this year, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Abdul Aziz said.

This aside, the agency would seek larger allocation from the Treasury for it to sponsor more students to pursue studies overseas, he told reporters after presenting cash advance and air tickets to students here today.

Nazri confirmed that Mara had suspended sponsorship for one of its students detained under the Internal Security Act (ISA) recently for activities prejudicial to national security.

This was the first time in its history that Mara had taken such a measure to emphasise that students are not above the law, he said.

Nazri also said he was all for amending the Universities and University Colleges Act to ensure that undergraduates concentrate on studies instead of preoccupying themselves with politics.

He was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's recent statement that the government would review whether the Act needed amending to make students put studies first.

On Saturday's by-election for the Likas state seat, he reminded the electorate there that Parti Keadilan Nasional (Keadilan) was irrelevant as it was harping on non-local issues.

The governing Barisan Nasional is again fielding SAPP president Datuk Yong Teck Lee to defend the seat on Saturday in a four-cornered fight, including a Keadilan challenger.

-- BERNAMA

HAK RYN