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Mara-Expertise

MARA OFFERS TO SHARE SKILLS TRAINING EXPERTISE WITH ASEAN

NARATHIWAT (Thailand), Sept 15 (Bernama) -- Mara, the agency tasked with uplifting the Bumiputera, said it is willing to help other countries, including Asean member nations, set up skills training institutes.

Its Director-General Datuk Mohamed Maidin Mohamed Sheriff said Mara has a pool of trainers in the various vocations which those countries would want its people to acquire.

"However our offer of assistance to set up Mara skills training institutes is subject to government approval and the availability of funds from donor countries like Japan," he said.

He was speaking at a news conference here today after presenting certificates to 102 Thai youths from the Narathiwat province who graduated from Mara skills training centres in Malaysia.

Mara had opened such a centre in Cambodia and loaned it five instructors. The centre had trained 900 Cambodian youths in various skills in the past five years.

He said the agency would propose that it be allowed to set up technical skills training centres in Thailand's southern provinces so that in future Thai youths need not go to Kelantan, Terengganu, Perak, Kedah and Perlis for training.

Since the programme was introduced two years ago, 200 Thai youths from the region had been trained in electronics, automotive repairs, furniture-making mechanical engineering draughtsmanship and construction, among other skills.

Meanwhile, Narathiwat Islamic Affairs Council president Abdurrahman Abdussamad who was present at the news conference, thanked Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Mara for initiating the programme.

Abdurrahman hoped that Malaysia would also arrange to conduct formal Bahasa Melayu courses for residents of the province besides assisting in the area's economic development.

-- BERNAMA

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