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Ling-TAR

MCA TO PUSH FOR VARSITY STATUS FOR TAR COLLEGE

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- MCA will push the government to accord university status to its Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR) College which has five campuses and over 29,000 students, party president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik said today.

"The college has grown from a small entity to an institution which has five campuses and it has the expertise equivalent to a university. This is why we want TAR college be accorded university status," he said.

He said the college has 12,000 students studying Information Technology and other vital courses suited for nation-building.

The college offers diploma courses to its students and those wishing to pursue their studies on completion of the diploma courses need to go overseas for their degrees.

"Why should our students waste money overseas...we have the capability to conduct degree courses here and this can only be done once the college is given the university status," he told reporters after attending MCA's 52nd anniversary celebrations at Wisma MCA.

Dr Ling, who is Transport Minister, said he would meet Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohamad soon to discuss the matter.

He said quite a number of TAR college students go overseas annually to complete their degrees and this was a wastage in terms of foreign exchange.

Dr Ling said the college in all its courses stressed on nation-building similar to that of other local universities.

"We want TAR college to be another MARA (Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) which was given university status last year," he added.

TAR College has campuses in Kuala Lumpur, Tanjung Bungah in Penang, Larkin (Johor), Kampar (Perak) and Karak (Pahang).

It is expected to have a 30,000 student enrolment by 2005.

The government bears 50 per cent operating and capital expenditures of the college set up 32 years ago.

-- BERNAMA

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