

Ministry drafting rules for students in Middle East

PETALING JAYA: Students intending to pursue tertiary education in the Middle East may have to register with the Education Ministry under a set of guidelines being drawn up by the ministry.

Ministry secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang said the guidelines were being formulated in response to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's instruction to keep tabs on universities there, some of which were not recognised by the governments of the countries in which they were based.

"There are no clear guidelines so we have been instructed to produce them," he told reporters yesterday.

When asked if other (non-Middle Eastern) countries would be included in the guidelines, he said the ministry was studying the matter in the context of Middle East countries.

"It is too early to say when the guidelines will be ready, but we are working on it," he said.

Dr Mahathir said on Thursday that the Government planned to make it compulsory for students to register with Malaysian embassies in countries where they were studying and state the names of the institutions they were enrolled with.

Ambrin earlier presented 28 students with Ronald McDonald Children's Charities Fund scholarships to cover the cost of school uniform, textbooks and fees for the duration of their studies.