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Mara-Bavaria

M'SIA SHOULD SEND MORE STUDENTS TO GERMANY, SAYS MINISTER

By: Abdul Muin Abdul Majid

MUNICH, March 19 (Bernama) -- Malaysian students should be encouraged to further their studies in Germany to take advantage of its excellent practical study approach, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said.

He said that despite the strong economic and technical cooperation with Germany, only a very small number of Malaysian students had benefitted from its good education system.

"Latest statistics that we have show that there are less than 150 Malaysian students currently studying in the whole of Germany," said Mohamed Nazri at a records of cooperation signing ceremony between Mara and the Science, Technology and the Arts Ministry of Bavaria here Monday.

It was witnessed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who is on a three-day official visit to Germany.

The collaboration between the two parties paves the way for Mara to send its top students to study at several technical universities in this southern German state of some 12 million people.

Mohamed Nazri said he instructed Mara to consider sending its top students to study in Germany following his visit to several universities there in 2000 at the invitation of the German Agency for Technical Cooperation.

Consequently, a preparatory programme was established in 2001 at the German-Malaysian Institute in Cheras to prepare qualified students for engineering studies in Bavaria.

The first batch of 45 students are expected here in September next year.

Mohamed Nazri told reporters covering Dr Mahathir's visit later that studying in Germany is cheaper compared to certain other countries as there is no need for students to pay tuition fees.

Meanwhile, Mara director-general Datuk Mohamed Mydin Mohamed Sheriff said five institutions of higher learning had been identified so far for the purpose of sending Mara students to Bavaria.

He added that the number of students in later batches might be increased.

The document was inked by Mohamed Nazri on behalf of Mara and Bavarian Science, Technology and the Arts Minister Hans Zehetmair.

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