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Ministry to come up with guidelines

PETALING JAYA, Fri. - The Education Ministry plans to come up with a set of guidelines for students planning to study abroad.

Education Ministry secretary-general Datuk Ambrin Buang said today that the guidelines would pertain to the registration of students and their institutions of higher learning.

He said it was still too early to talk of details of the guidelines.

Amrin was commenting on Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that the Government may look into the possibility of requiring all those intending to study abroad to register with Wisma Putra.

"As the Prime Minister said, we will come up with guidelines," he said today after launching the Ronald McDonald Children's Charities (RMCC) Fund of Malaysia Tunas Wawasan scholarship programme for 2002.

At the ceremony today, 28 Form One students received scholarships from the RMCC fund.

Under the Tunas Wawasan programme, the scholarship targets students with potential from low-income families who face difficulties in keeping their children in school.

The group, two representing every State, received a mock cheque and certificate each.

The scholarship helps to pay for the annual and monthly school fees and other expenses.

RMCC president Fadillah Yakin said the cost per student was about RM900 for Form One, and RM1,200 for subsequent years.

In total, RMCC will contribute RM652,680 for the programme until the year 2006, when the students finish their Form Five.

Mac Gyver Lengai, 12, from Sek Men Keb Tabuan Jaya in Serian, Sarawak, said the scholarship would really help to reduce the financial burden faced by his family.

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