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Hadi-MRSM

T'GANU REP HAS MET PM ON MRSM ISSUE, SAYS HADI

KUALA TERENGGANU, Jan 15 (Bernama) -- A representative of the Terengganu state government has met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to convey its views on the issue of the closure of two Maktab Rendah Sains Mara-Yayasan Terengganu (MRSM-YT).

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abdul Hadi Awang said State Economic, Petroleum, Industrial and Human Resource Development Committee chairman Datuk Mustafa Ali met the Prime Minister in Putrajaya on Monday.

"We have expressed our views that the two MRSM-YT in Dungun and Besut should not be closed and the functions of the buildings be retained.

"These include our hope to have a discussion in the interest of education," he told reporters after the state Exco meeting here today.

Last Jan 8, Abdul Hadi withdrew the notice of closure for the college in Dungun which was issued by Yayasan Terengganu and suggested that a meeting on the matter be held with the Entrepreneur Development Ministry, which is responsible for Mara.

Abdul Hadi said the initial order for the closure of the two MRSM was made by the state government following Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Nazri Aziz's decision to close the two colleges because of operational problems and the state government's refusal to reduce the 80 percent quota on intake of Terengganu-born students.

However, Nazri has said the government would go ahead with the closure and the affected students would be transferred to MRSM in other districts in Terengganu and Kelantan.

Abdul Hadi said the state government was prepared to discuss with the ministry technical problems like reducing the quota for local intake.

Meanwhile, Mustafa said the meeting with Dr Mahathir proceeded smoothly and he had conveyed to the Prime Minister the state government's view that the two colleges should not be closed.

"The Prime Minister told me that "I will check and I see what I can do," said Mustafa, who was also present at the press conference.

-- BERNAMA

MRA AM YBY