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Shahidan-Egypt

NO AID FOR UNREGISTERED STUDENT BODIES OVERSEAS

By: Muin Abdul Majid

CAIRO, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- State-based associations of Malaysian students in Egypt will not get aid from the Yayasan Ikhtisas Malaysia (YIM) as long as they are not registered with the Malaysian embassy here.

YIM chairman Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said on Wednesday that he had told all Menteri Besar of this matter.

"We have asked all state-based associations to get registered. So far only three have done so -- Melaka, Sabah and Sarawak," said Shahidan, who is Perlis Menteri Besar, to Malaysian journalists covering Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's working visit to Egypt which ended on Thursday.

The other state-based associations are said to be affiliated to the Egypt Arab Republic Malay Federation (PMRAM), which is allegedly involved in anti-government activities.

On the Perlis-born Association which has yet to register with the embassy, Shahidan, who joined Dr Mahathir's delegation here, regretted that the association considered PMRAM as "bigger" than the embassy.

He said the Perlis government had stopped zakat aid to students from Perlis who refused to register with the embassy.

The aid would be resumed once they registered themselves, he said.

Shahidan said if the associations were registered, it would enable the embassy to know the actual number of students and better look after their welfare.

He also said Menteri Besars planned to hold a joint visit to Egypt to encourage them to study hard as wished by Dr Mahathir.

On another matter, Shahidan said Perlis would hold an International Ulama Conference in March this year.

The conference was aimed at sharing knowledge and not seeking influence, he said.

He said the Sheikh of Al Azhar, Dr Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, had agreed to attend the meeting when he was personally invited by the Regent of Perlis.

-- BERNAMA

MAM YBY