

Malaysian Students in China Proposed To Become Young Ambassadors to Promote Tourism

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By Samantha Tan Chiew Ting

BEIJING, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi has proposed that Malaysian students in China be made young ambassadors to promote the national tourism industry.

He said this could be done by involving the 841 Malaysian students in China in cultural shows or those on radio and television.

"Perhaps a special allowance could be given by the private sector to encourage and be an incentive for them to promote Malaysian tourism destinations," he told reporters here today.

He said the detailed plan would be discussed by the Malaysian Embassy in China and the Ministry of Tourism and Culture to increase the number of Chinese tourists to Malaysia.

He added that Chinese tourists spent at least RM3,345 each when visiting Malaysia, and this would add to the national revenue which could partly be used to pay the young ambassadors involved.

Speaking at a question-and-answer session with Malaysian students in Beijing at a dinner function held at the Malaysian Embassy last night, Ahmad Zahid said had never neglected the welfare of students overseas.

He also urged Malaysians regardless of race and religion to focus on their similarities so that Malaysia could achieve the developed nation status by 2020, even though this could be a challenging target.

He said opinions by certain parties who try to disrupt the harmony of various communities must be looked at rationally and not with emotion.

He added that while it was not wrong to have differences in opinions, they must be expressed in a proper way and through the proper channels.

"The government had provided a good education for all parties regardless of race and community. However, the knowledge must be used to develop a thinking ability together with good character which does not focus on self-importance.

"The people must be educated but they must not forget that their knowledge must benefit the community and not go towards breaking up society," he said.

Commenting on student discount cards, Ahmad Zahid said the matter had been brought to the cabinet for approval.

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