

Special school plan for undocumented M'sians in Sabah - Maszlee

NST 4-10-2019 3

KOTA KINABALU: The setting up of a special school for undocumented Malaysians in Sabah is in the pipeline, says Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik.

"This was mentioned in my 2019 policy speech in Parliament earlier this year," he said.

Apart from that, he said the government, through relevant departments, would also help these students get their identification documents.

According to government records, he said, there are about 2,635 undocumented children who are in schools nationwide.

"Of this, 1,184 are in Sabah," he said during a town hall session with lecturers and students in Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here Thursday.

Earlier in the programme, students asked about the rationale behind giving undocumented and stateless people education, how employable are

graduates according to the courses taken and other related questions.

On the stateless education issue, he said, education should be for all regardless of a person's status in society.

They were also told that without education, children would not know how to follow rules and regulations, read, abide to laws and would not be able to find jobs in future.

Students were also urged to come up with programmes to help teach and educate these children, especially the sea gypsies.

"Letting them learn would be much better than leaving them to roam aimlessly in life," Maszlee said

On other matters, he said the government would assist UMS to bring in more foreign and international students.

"We want to see UMS improve and become more competitive with highly employable graduates," he said.