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R GE 31-08 00179 ED831

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Mahathir-university

PM SAYS MALAYSIA SHOULD EXPORT EXPERTISE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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KOTA SAMARAHAN, Aug 31 ⁹³ (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today suggested that the skills and expertise on higher education available locally be made a commodity for export.

The Prime Minister said there was no reason why the Malaysian system of higher education could not be turned into an industry like what other countries had done by competing to set up twinning programmes and so forth in this country.

What these countries did actually amounted to exporting their skills to Malaysia, he said when laying the foundation stone of Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) here.

"We cannot just sit still and be a recipient. We should make efforts to market our educational skills and expertise to the international community," he said.

In this connection, he urged local universities to strive towards setting high standards in all aspects of their activities so that Malaysia could be a model for education in the region. -- more

▼31/08/16-11MST

R GE 31-08 00138 ED832

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Mahathir-university 2 Kota Samarahan

Dr Mahathir said although the local university system was new compared to those of developed countries, the relevant parties in the country should be determined to improve the quality and standards of local university education.

To meet the country's development objectives in general, and the universities' aims in particular, universities should cooperate with the government, he said.

He said the government was prepared to accept ideas and research findings that would benefit the people and the country.

"The important thing is academicians should be more sensitive to development issues and issues that are relevant to the social, economic and political situation in the country," he added.

He said universities should cultivate a close rapport with the society and industries. -- more

▼31/08/16-28MST

CNS1172

R GE 31-08 00149 ED833

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Mahathir-university 3 Kota Samarahan

As universities should be involved in the development process, they should get close to industries, Dr Mahathir said, adding that academicians should change their attitude to cultivate university-industry relations.

He said this meant that universities should not wait for industries to approach them but should be more aggressive in marketing their services with strategic marketing and planning, including to society and the government.

He said: "It is clear that sincere joint-ventures between universities, the government, industries and society are no longer an option but a key prerequisite."

Dr Mahathir said the government would consider relaxing controls on universities to give them flexibility to manage their affairs more effectively.

The Prime Minister said the government did not wish to impose restrictions on any academic activity that was beneficial to the country.
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▼31/08/16-48MST

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Mahathir-university 4 (last) Kota Samarahan

However, universities should scrutinise their administrative styles, methods of making internal decisions and other issues which could enhance their roles in society, he said.

He advised them to reflect on the system they inherited from the colonial times to ensure that their management was more contemporary in nature so that they could be aggressive, pro-active, innovative and had quality.

He hoped that universities would seek ways to be more responsible and be entrusted with responsibility as this was the type of culture that needed to be instilled in students.

On research, he said such ventures should be of international standard and be consistent with the country's priority of result-oriented activities that could boost national development. -- Bernama

AHM YBY