

U GE 19-07 00175 EA619

qae

Mahathir-education

PM CALLS ON PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS TO MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS

94  
PULAU PINANG, July 19 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today called on private educational institutions to maintain high standards and ensure quality education.

"We must be rigorous with regard to standards if we are to maintain the reputation of being providers of quality education," he said.

Opening the RM24-million Kolej Antarabangsa here, he warned private colleges that the government will come down hard on those who compromise standards in the pursuit of making quick profits.

"We are aware that if we are not sufficiently vigilant, there is the temptation that in the pursuit of quick profits, dubious arrangements will be resorted to and certificate mills will be set up," he said.

He said the behaviour of a few can undermine the credibility of the whole nation and the whole education industry will be brought into disrepute with subsequent loss to everyone. -- more

ANR KHY MGN

▼19/07/14-51MST

U GE 19-07 00178 EA621

qae

Mahathir-education 2 Pulau Pinang

Dr Mahathir also said the proliferation of private education institutions in the country can cater not only to local needs but also to foreign demand.

However, he warned private education institutions not to advocate the provision of a smorgasbord of courses of study regardless of whether or not they can contribute to the aspirations of the nation.

He said that in respect of Vision 2020 to create a society based on science and technology, there is a need to be selective in the courses offered by educational institutions and not to offer only popular courses to attract students.

"It would be worthwhile for private education institutions to seek areas that have not been explored such as aeronautics, materials and their properties, production technology, computer-aided design, machining and manufacturing," he said.

He said the provision of such courses will go a long way towards enabling Malaysia to carve a niche in the highly competitive education industry. -- more

ANR KHY MGN

▼19/07/15-12MST

aae

Mahathir-education 3 (last) Pulau Pinang

The prime minister also said that the government is studying proposals on amendments with regard to higher education to allow for the setting up of branch campuses of reputed foreign universities in the country.

He said regulations regarding entry and visa requirements for foreign students are also being simplified and a National Accreditations Board is also being set up to ensure that the credentials of institutions have international acceptance and recognition in other countries.

Dr Mahathir also said that it is essential that the private sector understands the aims and objectives of the Ministry of Education and called on both the public and private sectors to work together to develop an education system which can take the best from both worlds.

"Bound by a shared vision and mission, both sectors can then not only avoid duplication of efforts and dissipation of energies but can work collaboratively towards a single purpose," he said.

Kolej Antarabangsa (International College) is a privately endowed college, developed by Worldwide Ventures Sdn Bhd., a joint venture between IJM Corporation Berhad and Penang Development Corporation (PDC) on a 14-hectare site in Bukit Jambul.

At the ceremony, IJM chairman Datuk Ahmad Azizuddin presented two cheques for RM50,000 to Dr Mahathir for the Bosnian Fund (RM20,000) and Bakti (RM30,000). -- Bernama

ANR KHY MGN

▼19/07/15-49MST