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Parliament-University

SETTING UP OF ASIA-EUROPE VARSITY TO BE EXPEDITED

KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- The setting up of the proposed Asia-Europe University, now in the planning stage, will be expedited, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak told the Dewan Rakyat today.

In a written reply to Karpal Singh (DAP-Jelutong), he said establishment of a university required thorough planning and its implementation took time.

His ministry had set up a task force to map out and plan activities which could encourage convergence of ideas between Asia and Europe as proposed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad at the Asia-Europe (ASEM) meeting in Bangkok last month.

The task force comprised foreign agencies and local universities, he said.

In another written reply to Lim Kit Siang (DAP-Tanjung) who wanted to know how many private universities would be set up in the country, Najib said his ministry would be cautious about the setting up of private universities as many factors needed to be considered, particularly the university's credibility and quality of education.

His ministry would not be hasty in determining the number of universities and the criteria as the matters were still being studied in efforts to draw up a firm policy.

Replying to Haji Mokhtaruddin Wan Yusof (BN-Dungun) on promotions for university lecturers, Najib said the promotion guidelines gave weightage to the five main duties of a lecturer.

They are lecturing, conducting research, publishing, consultancy and community service. -- BERNAMA

ARA TS LDB