

16/09/1998

PM appoints Najib as acting president of IIU

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has taken over as acting president of the International Islamic University upon the removal of Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim from the position.

Najib, who announced this today, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad directed him (Najib) to take over the position until a new president was appointed.

"My tenure will be temporary. The Education Minister cannot remain in the university position as the president has to report to the Education Ministry.

"I leave it to the Prime Minister to appoint a new president. All shareholders have been duly informed," Najib told reporters after witnessing the signing of a memorandum of understanding between Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka and Multi Media Synergy Corporation Sdn Bhd at the DBP.

The MoU is for both parties to work together and transform classic Malay literature into electronic form. Also present was DBP director-general A. Aziz Deraman.

Anwar was sacked from his positions as Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister on Sept 2 for moral misconduct. He was expelled from Umno the following day. He became IIU president in 1988.

Najib said the statement from the Prime Minister's Department was clear in that the removal of Anwar from all Government positions included his removal from the IIU president's post.

He said Anwar knew he had been removed. "We are in the process of sending him an official letter."

On the situation at universities following the current political problem, Najib said everything was calm.

"We have had no reports of untoward incidents involving undergraduates, he said.

(END)