

02 OCT 1999

Najib

COMING PARLIAMENT SITTING MAY AMEND ITM ACT

PEKAN, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- The coming sitting of the Dewan Rakyat may deliberate on proposed amendments to the Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM) Act 1996 following ITM's upgrading to university status, Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

Several provisions in the act were being reviewed for Cabinet endorsement pending tabling in Parliament, he said.

Najib, who is Umno vice president and Member of Parliament for Pekan told reporters this after launching the election machinery for the Pekan Umno division here today.

According to Najib, following its elevation to university status, the institution was also discussing its scheme of service with the Treasury and the Public Service Department.

Last Aug 26, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced ITM's new university status, renaming it Universiti Teknologi Mara.

According to Najib, the Cabinet last month also approved the establishment of a Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) branch campus for Pahang here.

The state government has agreed to alienate the land required for the campus and a suitable site was being scouted, taking into account proximity to automobile assembly plants in the Peramu area here so that engineering students could easily do their practical training later.

In his speech earlier, Naib reminded Umno members not to be lulled into complacency by being overconfident that the governing Barisan Nasional (BN) would return to power with overwhelming majority in the coming general election.

"This advice applies everywhere. We should not be over confident of winning so much so we make sloppy preparations for the polls," he said.

Najib said he gave this reminder as he feared that Umno members would feel there was no need for them to work hard thinking that a BN victory would be a foregone conclusion.

According to his assessment based on his nation-wide tour, Najib said he did not see how the opposition could win in the coming general election.

"This explains why the opposition keeps saying they only mean to deny the BN of two-thirds majority in parliament," Najib added.

-- BERNAMA

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