

01 JUL 1999

Najib-IIU

IIU DR MAHATHIR'S BRAINCHILD, SAYS NAJIB

KUALA LUMPUR, July 1 (Bernama) -- Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said today the International Islamic University was the brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who mooted the idea in 1982.

In rejecting the assumption that former deputy prime minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim was instrumental in setting up the university, he said, the proposal was made even before Anwar was in the government.

"If there is a different perception, it is not true and not supported by a statement of fact," he told reporters after addressing a leader-with-the student gathering at the university in Gombak, here.

He said the proposal paper to set up the university was tabled before the Cabinet by the then Education Minister Datuk Amar Dr Sulaiman Daud.

The university was officially established on May 10, 1983.

Najib said although Anwar was no longer the university's president, the government's struggle to uphold Islam would continue.

Later, replying to a question at a dialogue session with the students, Najib said, even if there was a rise in university tuition fees in future, the increase would be minimal.

" We have never raised tuition fees since the setting up of Universiti Malaya," he said.

Replying to another question by a student whether graduates would have job opportunities as the country's economy had not fully recovered, he said, there would always be jobs for them.

-- BERNAMA

NZ/SBJ TS