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Najib-ITM

ITM ACT NEEDS TO BE AMENDED, SAYS NAJIB

SHAH ALAM, Aug 26 (Bernama) -- The Institut Teknologi Mara (ITM) Act needs to be amended following the change in its name to Universiti Teknologi Mara (UTM) which was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today.

Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said, however, the amendment need not take a long time as it only involved technical change.

"Maybe a slight amendment in the ITM Act is needed. It's formality, so the amendment will not take a long time as it is only a technical matter," he told reporters after the Premier Gathering of ITM Graduates with the Prime Minister at the Malawati Stadium, here today.

Dr Mahathir, in his speech before some 20,000 former and present ITM students, announced the change in the name from ITM to UTM following the institute's rapid progress in producing many graduates capable of playing a significant role in national development.

Najib said the formal amendment to the act would be tabled in parliament at its next sitting.

As for the institute being referred to as university, he said the name Universiti Teknologi Mara could be used in the ordinary sense although in terms of legality, it has not been approved by parliament.

He said although ITM changed its name to UTM, the status of 70 per cent of the courses offered would still be maintained at the diploma level alongside other courses such as the certificate, bachelors, masters and doctorate courses.

ITM now has 12 branch campuses nationwide including its main campus here with a total of 54,000 students.

The early history in the establishment of ITM started in 1956 when the government approved the setting up of the RIDA (Rural Industrial Development Authority) Training Hall with an intake of 25 students.

The name was then changed to Mara College following the Bumiputera Economic Congress in Kuala Lumpur in 1965 and then ITM in 1967.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AO