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## Plenty of jobs, Najib assures varsity students

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Education Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak has assured those graduating from local universities next year that there will be plenty of jobs in various sectors.

This would be possible as he expected the economy to recover fully next year.

"The Government is confident that the economy from next year will start experiencing the kind of growth that was enjoyed before the economic problems.

"As such, graduates will have nothing to worry about as job vacancies in various fields will be in abundance.

"The economic recovery is a result of the measures taken by the Government, including capital controls," Najib told International Islamic University undergraduates at the university campus in Gombak.

He said this in his address before having a closed-door dialogue with them.

Najib said graduates from local universities should prove themselves to be the best in the world. "They must be able to face the challenges of globalisation, be multi-disciplined, have strong leadership abilities and display excellent intellectual prowess."

He also said they should be thankful for the nation's success in many aspects.

"There are four reasons to be thankful. The first is that Malaysia is a resounding success in the management of a multi-ethnic, multi-linguistic society.

"We should take pride in the fact that we have done better in this respect compared to some countries in Europe, for instance, where there is racial strife.

"We must also be thankful for peace and political stability, which is a foundation for progress; equal opportunities bestowed on all Malaysians whether from rural or urban areas; and that the country has done much for Muslims.

"We do not see Islam in its narrow interpretation. We work towards making the country a better place so that we can be true Muslims in every sense of the word."

He said the establishment of IIU, for instance, was testament of the Government's commitment towards the provision of sound Islamic education.

"Contrary to rumours, the university was the vision of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and not that of (former Deputy Prime Minister) Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"Dr Mahathir had the idea on Jan 12, 1982, and it was brought to the Cabinet. On May 10, 1993, the university was established. IIU is now known the world over for producing quality education and graduates."

On university fees, he said the Government's policy was that higher education should be accessible to everyone. "Fees are kept to a minimum. Even if there are to be changes in future, it will be minimal.

"University fees have not been raised since the first university in the country, Universiti Malaya, was established."

On "3+0" programmes, which are foreign degrees done completely in the country, Najib said he would soon announce the names of private colleges which had been granted approval to run such programmes.

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