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PM to launch Uniten today

Chok Suat Ling

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will officially launch Universiti Tenaga Nasional tomorrow.

Accreditation certificates for five new programmes will also be handed to the Tenaga Nasional Berhad-owned university by the National Accreditation Board.

An estimated 5,000 students will be attending the event. Deputy Education Ministers Datuk Aziz Shamsuddin and Datuk Hon Choon Kim are also expected to be present.

Dr Mahathir will be briefed on the progress and development of the university by Uniten rector Dr Tajul Arus Noh after the launch.

Several selected undergraduates and staff members will have an opportunity to speak informally with Dr Mahathir during lunch.

It opened its doors to its first batch of 216 students in June 1992. Located 25km south of Kuala Lumpur, the campus is situated within the Multimedia Super Corridor and close to Cyberjaya.

Among the programmes offered by the university are the Bachelor of Accountancy and Bachelor of Electric and Electronic Engineering.

Uniten students are eligible to apply for loans under the National Higher Education Fund.

Uniten started out in 1976 as Institute Latihan Sultan Ahmad Shah (Ilsas) and served for many years as a corporate training institute for TNB and its predecessor, the National Electricity Board.

In 1994, Ilsas was transformed into an institute of higher learning and renamed Institute Kejuruteraan Teknologi Tenaga Nasional (Ikatan) which then offered degree programmes under twinning arrangements with local and overseas universities.

Uniten was invited to upgrade to university status in 1997. Other private universities in the country are Universiti Telekom, Universiti Petronas, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak and the International Medical University.

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