

03/04/2001

Uniten to open branch campus in Muadzam Shah

ROMPIN, Mon. - Universiti Tenaga Nasional, one of the country's leading private universities, will set up a branch campus, Uniten's first, in Muadzam Shah in June.

It will offer diploma and degree courses in management, economics and accounting.

Uniten, which is wholly-owned by national utility company Tenaga Nasional Bhd, has its main campus in Bangi, 25km south of Kuala Lumpur. It was set up in 1997.

TNB chairman Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said the branch campus would eventually accommodate Uniten's College of Business Management.

"The main campus in Bangi will house the College of Engineering and Information Technology."

Jamaluddin, who is Rompin MP, said the Federal and Pahang Governments had accepted TNB's proposal to set up the branch campus.

"There are a lot of under-utilised infrastructure facilities in Muadzam Shah after the dissolution of the Pahang Tenggara Regional Development Authority (Dara).

"So, we can make use of the infrastructure developed by Dara. We will also occupy buildings vacated by government agencies like Felra when the Government downsized its administration there. All these will be enough to accommodate our branch campus," he said, adding that this would ensure efficient use of the country's assets.

He said there was no need for TNB to develop a new area or build new buildings.

The five-storey Dara administration block will accommodate the lecture rooms.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is expected to open the branch campus by way of video-conferencing on May 11.

Jamaluddin said the pioneer batch of 300 students and 50 academic staff would be occupying the branch campus in June. "The branch campus will cater to 3,000 students within five years."

TNB spend about RM50 million on renovation and facilities.

Jamaluddin said what TNB was doing was in tandem with the Government's aspiration to bring development to rural areas.

"If we were to spend RM100 million on the branch campus in major towns, the effect is less. But if it is developed in rural areas like Muadzam Shah, the effect will be more widespread and will benefit the rural people.

"With the Uniten campus in Muadzam Shah, we hope it will become the growth catalyst for the area, creating a lot of spin-offs for locals."

He said it would also provide wider tertiary education opportunities to school-leavers in the rural areas.

(END)