

19 SEP 2002

Parliament-University

MARA'S PROPOSED PRIVATE UNIVERSITY RENAMED KL UNIVERSITY

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- The private university to be set up by Mara will now be known as the University of Kuala Lumpur, Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Nazri Aziz said today.

He said the Education Ministry had agreed in principle to the change of the name from Universiti Teknikal Mara (Unitek-Mara).

Speaking in the Dewan Rakyat, the minister said the university's campus would be on a 40 hectare site in the city.

"I chose the name Kuala Lumpur as it is well known in the world. If we use Unitek-Mara, who will know...only we would know what Mara is," he said when winding up debate on the the Majlis Amanah Rakyat (Amendment) Bill.

The Bill will enable Mara to set up a company that would manage the new university as well as other Mara private higher learning institutions.

Mohamed Nazri said the private university, to be managed by a company that will be set up soon, will employ professional staff and lecturers to provide high quality education.

In another development, Mohamed Nazri said the Mara Advanced Skills Institutes, which conduct technical engineering training programmes, benefited from their cooperation with foreign countries, especially in the area of technology transfer.

He said the German-Malaysian Institute, Malaysian-France Institute and Malaysian-Spanish Institute had received huge grants from the respective foreign governments.

"Mara does not need to fork out anything. In fact it (co-operation) is beneficial and helps in the transfer of technology and knowledge from a developed country. What is better is that Mara graduates are offered job opportunities before the completion of their courses," he said.

Mohamed Nazri said Mara was prepared to venture into new high-potential fields such as biotechnology as well as strive to produce highly educated and skilfull graduates as entrepreneurs.

The Dewan Rakyat sits again tomorrow. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, will table the Budget 2003 at 4pm.

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