

22 SEP 2003
Agong-Knowledge
EDUCATION, A LIFELONG PROCESS- KING

SHAH ALAM, Sept 22 (Bernama) -- The Yang di-Pertuan Agong Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin Tuanku Syed Putra Jamalullail today urged graduands to continue acquiring knowledge even after graduation as education is a lifelong process.

This was because sound knowledge and skills would determine the strength of a nation and safeguard its sovereignty, said the King who is the Chancellor of the Universiti Teknologi Mara at its convocation here.

"The strength and sovereignty of our country rest on the shoulders of all you graduands. I place high hopes on all of you graduands to shoulder this responsibility," he said.

His Majesty said more honest, trustworthy and disciplined intellectuals were needed in Malaysia which was fast developing towards becoming a developed nation by 2020.

Tuanku Syed Sirajuddin believed that Universiti Teknologi Mara had equipped its graduates with knowledge that would enable them to compete and contribute towards the race and country.

"I pray that UiTM's vision to emerge as a world class university will be realised," he said.

His Majesty then handed over the scrolls to 380 graduands and post graduates. Also present was the Raja Permaisuri Agong Her Majesty Tuanku Fauziah Tengku Abdul Rashid.

The other graduands will receive their scrolls during 19 sessions from tomorrow until Oct 6.

Meanwhile, Vice Chancellor Datuk Seri Prof Dr Ibrahim Abu Shah said 61.1 per cent of the university's graduates usually obtained employment after about six months from the date of graduation while the rest either continued with their studies or remained unemployed.

At the diploma level, 36.1 per cent also found jobs after six months from the date of graduation, 47.1 per cent were continuing their education at degree level while the rest were unemployed.

Dr.Ibrahim said the market trend now was people with degrees easily obtained jobs.

Local universities were also increasingly accepting diploma holders for their university course programmes.

The Institut Teknologi Mara was founded in 1967 and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad declared the venerable institute a university on Aug 26, 1999.

Dr Ibrahim said the university stressed heavily on mastering English and this year its students attained more than 30 per cent pass in the language above the national average in MUET (Malaysian University English Test).

-- BERNAMA
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