

12 JAN 2003

Tajol-universities

PERAK HAS TWO MORE UNIVERSITY SITES

KAMPAR, Jan 12 (Bernama) -- Perak has two more sites to set for universities in the state, after a 520-hectare site it allocated to Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman (UTAR).

One site covering 280 hectares is in Gopeng and another, 1200 hectares in Tapah for "Universiti Komanwel" or Commonwealth University.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali said the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would decide on the kind of university to be set up in Gopeng.

"Building universities is one way of developing the state since Perak does not have many facilities to attract investors," he said at the laying of the foundation stone for UTAR main campus by Dr Mahathir, here.

Tajol Rosli said that with the setting up of two more universities in 2010, Perak would have a student population of 100,000 and the figure would double by 2020.

"They will all contribute to the development of Perak," he said.

On the site for UTAR, he said it was a token of the state government's appreciation to the Chinese community for their support to the Barisan Nasional (BN).

Meanwhile, MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik in his speech said Kampar would soon be renowned as an academic town in Malaysia with the setting up of UTAR main campus and a branch campus of Kolej Tunku Abdul Rahman (TAR).

"Kampar was selected as the site for UTAR campus because its has good 'Feng Shui'. The construction of the campus is going smoothly, thanks to the support of everyone especially the state government," he said.

Dr Ling said Dr Mahathir had also given his support and encouragement in making the MCA's 33-year-old dream of setting up a university a reality.

-- BERNAMA

KAY ABG