

Newspaper	THE STAR
Date	15 OCTOBER 2016

# Govt will support UiTM, says Najib

The Star - 15/10/2016

## PM promises varsity backing to help correct socio-economic imbalances

**SHAH ALAM:** The Prime Minister has given his assurance that the development of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) will have government support.

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said UiTM had contributed to correcting socio-economic imbalances in the country, especially lifting the Malays from poverty.

"We are proud that Malaysia is ahead of many countries and this is possibly because, from the aspect of social mobility, it is among the world's best," he said in his speech at UiTM's 60th anniversary celebration yesterday.

Social mobility is the movement of social status in individuals, families, households or other categories of people within or between social strata in a society.

Najib said that in one generation, children from poor families became professionals, professors and ministers because of the social mobility policy promoted by the country's leaders.

UiTM was a result of Umno's struggles and sacrifices, he said.

"On behalf of the Government, I assure you that I will continue to support the development of UiTM," he said.

Najib said UiTM was founded by his father Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, the second Prime Minister, 60 years ago because he wanted to produce intelli-

gent bumiputra and to have a more balanced development in the country.

When he was Education Minister, Najib said, he proposed to the Cabinet in 1999 that UiTM be elevated to university status.

UiTM provides access to good quality education and has produced 661,456 graduates, most of whom were employable, he said, adding that students from the rural areas were given opportunities to succeed.

On whether he would be going to Thailand to pay his last respects to Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej who passed away on Thursday, Najib said he would check the details of the funeral arrangements.

"I have yet to be informed because of the period of mourning and there are certain times and dates allotted for world leaders. I am getting more details," he said.

He added that Malaysia would be sending representation at the highest level due to "the closeness of our relationship with Thailand" and "he is a highly respected monarch".

King Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, was 88 years old.



**Top students:** Najib admiring the university's Wall of Fame Alumni. He is accompanied by UiTM board of directors chairman Tan Sri Dr Ahmad Zaidee Laidin (right) and UiTM vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Hassan Said.

Watch the video  
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