

UMT STUDENTS SEND MEMO TO PM

Council opposes proposed merger with Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin

SATIMAN JAM IN
KUALA TERENGGANU
news@nst.com.my

UNIVERSITI Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) students sent a memorandum to Prime Minister

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad opposing the proposed merger of their alma mater with their neighbour, Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA).

UMT student council president Muhammad Hasyimi Hasyim Mohd Suddin, 22, handed the memorandum to Dr Mahathir's Media and Communication adviser Datuk A. Kadir Jasin after the latter delivered a talk at UMT yesterday.

Hasyimi said the memoran-

dum was a presentation of their case against the proposed merger and hoped that Dr Mahathir would give it due consideration.

"We are fortunate to have Datuk Kadir here and thankful that he is willing to forward the memorandum to the prime minister. Hopefully, it will help sway the final decision of the Education Ministry (MoE) on this matter," he said.

UMT student council's executive committee member Mohamad Zulkarnain Mohd Dali said a series of discussions between UMT students and the MoE's Higher Education Department had been scheduled, but they had doubts whether their views would be taken into account.



Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) student council president Muhammad Hasyimi Hasyim Mohd Suddin (centre) handing a memorandum to Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's Media and Communication adviser Datuk A. Kadir Jasin after the latter's talk at UMT yesterday, PIC BY ROZAINAH ZAKARIA

"We've been told that the discussions will be on how the merger will be implemented, not on whether it should be carried out.

"In a previous meeting with the Higher Education Department, we were told that the merger de-

cision was made in April, but nobody sought our views then. It is unfair that they only want to discuss with us now after a final decision on the merger was made," he said.

However, he said everybody in

UMT remained positive there was still room to reverse the decision.

He said UMT student council would hold a series of public debates on the issue so those interested could present their case.