

Queen Banking On UMT To Help Country Tackle Social Ills Among Teens
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 1 (Bernama) -- The Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Nur Zahirah has placed high hopes on Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) to help find solutions to social ills particularly affecting teens.

Noting that the university had newly set up a Social Development Faculty and Socio-economic Development Centre, Her Majesty, who is also UMT Chancellor, said it could play an essential role through research and development.

"The problems besetting society today especially among our young, cannot be viewed lightly as they are the heirs to the future of the country," she stressed.

The queen was also pleased with the achievement of the university at the national as well as international level.

"Even though UMT is still young in the academic world, I hope it will continue to maintain and strive towards achieving research university status that is on par with well-known state universities in the world," she said at UMT's ninth convocation here Saturday.

Her Majesty was accompanied by Yang Dipertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin. Also present were Terengganu Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Ahmad Said, UMT pro-chancellor Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman, former Prime Minister Tun Mahathir Mohamad and his wife Tun Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali and UMT vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Aziz Deraman.

The queen also conferred UMT's Honorary Doctorate of Science on Dr Mahathir.

The convocation involved 1,763 graduates, of whom 1,677 received their Bachelor's Degree. Another 110 received their Master's Degree while 15, Ph.D, and 86, Diploma.

Meanwhile, best bumiputera student Tengku Teh Mareiah Tengku Jewa, 27, an only child, from Kedah, who received a bachelor's degree in counseling, said her secret to success was simply studying earnestly.

"I revise my lessons whenever I find time, especially when the examination was approaching," she said, adding, one of her favourite activities was mountain-climbing.

Best student in Mathematical Science, Ten Wei Pen, 25, from Perak whose right hand was impaired since birth, said his defect did not hinder him to study hard for a degree.

"I faced many challenges - when I was in form five my father passed away and when I was in form six, my mother Siah Boon Eng, 50, was diagnosed with ovarian cancer," he said.

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