

**High Benchmark for Public Universities to Produce Excellent Graduates - DPM
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KUALA LUMPUR, March 15 (Bernama) -- The government, through the Higher Education Ministry, has set high benchmark for public universities to produce excellent graduates.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said this was because the government did not wish to just be a local hero in the area of education, but would also want to be an exemplary model at the global arena.

"Obviously the objective of higher education is not only to have excellent academic performance, but also to give priority to the development of characters and good moral values.

"A graduate may have good academic result, but it must be balanced with his personality development, because if not, an imbalance will occur which will affect the university's end product," he said at the presentation of appointment letters and appreciation awards for the Higher Education Ministry Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Faculty Programme here tonight.

Also present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh.

A total of 31 new CEO from private companies, government-linked companies and government officials received the appointment letters for the second phase of the CEO Faculty Programme.

The event also celebrated the expertise, time and energy contributed by 24 CEO appointed for the first phase of the programme.

Meanwhile, Ahmad Zahid said the ministry was currently on the right track in taking proactive measures towards making the national education system among the best in the world, including by implementing the CEO Faculty Programme, which aims to intensify the involvement of industry players as part of the national higher education system by sharing their experiences and expertise.

Through this programme, the CEO involved would spend 20 to 30 hours in the forms of lectures, sharing of knowledge, case study and keynote address to students, lecturers and academic staff of the universities.

Ahmad Zahid said that in recognition of the program, he would propose to include the CEO Faculty Programme, which is the first in the world, as well as the Integrated Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) programme, in the National Blue Ocean Strategy.

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