

**UniMara to Be Set Up To Assist Human Capital Development – Najib
Bernama
April 4, 2016**

KUALA LUMPUR, April 4 (Bernama) -- A non-technical university to be known as Universiti Mara (UniMara) will be set up to assist the development of human capital in the country, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

He said the Higher Education Ministry had given approval for the setting up of the institution.

"Mara (Majlis Amanah Rakyat) already has the Universiti Kuala Lumpur (UniKL), so for non-TVET (technical and vocational education training), a MARA university will also be created...so many of our students will have the opportunity to further their studies at the university," he said in his speech at the 50th Mara Anniversary premier celebration, here today.

The establishment of the university was among several important developments announced by the Prime Minister in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Mara to determine the new direction of the agency besides streamlining it to face the next 50 years.

The Prime Minister also announced the change in the name of Yayasan Pelajaran Mara (Mara Educational Foundation) to Yayasan Mara (Mara Foundation) to expand the assistance to the various target groups.

"It means that previously, the social responsibility of the Mara Educational Foundation was limited to education, but when we change the name, with an accumulated fund of RM800 million, Mara can give other aid such as welfare aid during the floods and so on," he said.

In addition, Najib said Jalan Semarang, where the Menara Mara (Mara Tower) here was located, would also be changed to Jalan Mara as a symbol of Mara's existence.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister said Mara's glory during the 50 years of its existence was closely linked to the glory of UMNO as the ruling party in the country.

He said that as the agency that championed the rights of the Malays and Bumiputera, Mara possibly might not have existed without UMNO.

"Mara was born by whom? UMNO. So, without UMNO, it is not possible for Mara to continue to exist.

"Rural and Regional Development Minister (Datuk Seri) Ismail Sabri says Mara will continue to exist for as long as the moon and the sun exist. But I will say that Mara will exist for as long as UMNO is in power," he said.

In this regard, Najib said UMNO as the party that defended Mara must continue to be preserved.

"That is why we must look after UMNO, take care of Mara and not sit on the same side as those who betray UMNO," he said.

Najib also described the relationship between UMNO and Mara as something that could not be separated from one another.

"A relationship that we describe as symbiotic between one another, like the nail and flesh. So, our commitment, the survival of these two institutions are blended with our struggles," he added.

-- BERNAMA

Copyright © 2015 BERNAMA

<http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v8/newsindex.php?id=1231916>