

**UiTM Changed Malay, Bumiputera Communities' Socioeconomic Landscape - PM
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SHAH ALAM, Oct 14 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the existence of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) had changed the country's economic landscape for the betterment of the Malay and bumiputera communities.

"The birth of UiTM is close to my family's heart because the founder was none other than my late father, Tun Abdul Razak Hussein, who envisioned it as a step in producing intellectuals from among the Malays and bumiputeras.

"On my part, when I was the Education minister, I presented the Mara Act 1999, which was one very meaningful transformation because we lifted ITM up to become a university," he said.

Najib said this at the launch of UiTM's 60th Anniversary celebration here today.

Also present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Nancy Shukri and UiTM Vice Chancellor Emeritus Prof Datuk Hassan Said.

The Prime Minister said the second step he took after ITM's transformation into a university was to target an enrolment of 200,000.

"Following the transformation process, we saw many additional campuses being built in each state and now there are 34 UiTM campuses nationwide. I have also been made to understand that in the next four to five years, the 200,000 target would become a reality," he said.

Najib said the establishment of the institution 60 years ago, impacted significantly on the four objectives in a university framework, namely, education, access to quality education, social mobility and social equality.

He said access to education was one of the benchmarks for a developed country and UiTM had contributed significantly in that aspect by successfully producing 661,456 graduates.

From the aspect of quality education, UiTM, he said, was among the highest contributors in graduate marketability.

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