

UMP to offer railway technology studies

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Najib says railway technology studies is a necessity today based on current developments in the field of transport, including the construction of the East Coast Railway project.

PEKAN: Prime Minister Najib Razak said Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) will become the first technical institute in the country to introduce studies in railway technology.

He said the field of study was a necessity today based on current developments in the field of transport, including the construction of the East Coast Railway (ECRL) project to be launched in September.

“I place another KPI (key performance indicator) for this university, all this while it was focusing more on management in the automotive field, but now I want it to focus on railway technology.

“The position of the UMP Gambang campus is also close to the ECRL route where this big project will be launched (in September),” Najib said.

He said this to reporters at the launching ceremony of the UMP Mosque and at the Syawal celebration with more than 2,000 UMP residents and community in Kuala Pekan here today.

Also present were Higher Education Minister Idris Jusoh, UMP Board of Directors chairman Mohd Hilmey Mohd Taib and UMP vice-chancellor Professor Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

The studies, named the ECRL Industrial Skills Training Programme, is expected to begin in September with a first intake of 300 students.

The programme will provide and improve the skills of local graduates to be employed by the ECRL contractor and the rail-tech industry.

Najib, who is also Pekan MP, said the project needed massive support from all quarters, including the institutions of higher learning in the country.

“We need skills in the field of rail technology whether it is in terms of construction, maintenance and management areas and to launch this skills programme, UMP will begin the process of transferring its skills.”

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