

**AMENDMENT TO PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS ACT (Act 555)
MUST BE AIMED AT MAKING IT EASIER FOR PRIVATE SECTOR TO HELP
GOVERNMENT IN BUILDING MALAYSIA'S TALENT POOL**

Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS)

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By Admin

Kuala Lumpur, 12 January 2017 – Commenting on Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh's address at the Amanat Pendidikan Tinggi 2017 event held in Putrajaya this morning, IDEAS Chief Executive Wan Saiful Wan Jan said, "I congratulate the Ministry of Higher Education for their many successes in 2016. Under Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh's leadership, there has been good progress and we must recognise these achievements. I am particularly pleased that in the event this morning, the Minister took the trouble to acknowledge the many people who have played significant roles in 2016. There are many good leaders in our higher education sector and they all deserve to be credited."

"I want to commend the Ministry of Higher Education for their desire to encourage private higher education providers to contribute towards Malaysia's talent pool. The government cannot do it alone. Private providers are a crucial element in the success of our higher education. This is why the amendment to Act 555 that was announced by Dato' Seri Idris Jusoh in his speech must be aimed at making it easier, not more difficult, for private providers to play their part. Indeed we must curb the growth of bogus colleges and we must ensure higher quality. But we must also ensure the solutions are not using a broad sweep that will stunt the growth of private institutions in the country. Regulations must be balanced so that it really solves the problems rather than create new ones."

"Private providers contributes to our higher education sector. There are now 401 private colleges and 96 private universities and private university colleges, serving 524,350 students. They employ 36,185 academic staff. And top of that, there are many private companies who sponsor their staff to pursue further training or give scholarships to deserving Malaysians. Clearly they contribute a lot to our country and we must recognise this. This is also why when it comes to regulating their involvement, we must make sure the regulations will encourage them to do more, not to put them off. The amendment to Act 555 must be done in the right way."

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