

Nik Mustapha new UPM V-C

PUTRAJAYA, Thurs. — Universiti Putra Malaysia deputy vice-chancellor (Research and Innovation) Prof Dr Nik Mustapha Raja Abdullah has been appointed UPM vice-chancellor.

His three-year term comes into effect on Jan 1.

Nik Mustapha succeeds Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Zohadie Bar-daie, who resigned recently.

A source said Nik Mustapha received his appointment letter from Higher Education

Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh at the latter's office here yesterday.

The university management is expected to announce Nik Mustapha's appointment tomorrow.

Before being promoted to deputy vice-chancellor, he was dean of the university's Economy and Management Faculty.

Taking over Nik Mustapha's post is Prof Dr Abu Bakar Salleh, the Biotechnology and

Science Bio-molecules Faculty head.

UPM Academic Officers Association welcomed Nik Mustapha's appointment.

Its president, Associate Professor Dr Mansor Ahmad, said experienced academicians such as Nik Mustapha and Abu Bakar would take UPM to greater heights.

"We will extend our fullest co-operation to them both."

Zohadie relinquished his post this month following a

disagreement with Shafie over the transfer of UPM's Aerospace Engineering programme to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia.

UPM disagreed with the decision and submitted a memorandum to the ministry on April 26, giving reasons why it should retain the programme.

It was also reported that Zohadie was said to have ridiculed Shafie in a poem he recited at a dinner at the university in June.