

Grads must meet needs of industry, says Najib

■ By Eileen Ng
eileen@nst.com.my

SERDANG: Universities must produce marketable graduates who meet job market needs, the deputy prime minister said.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak said institutions of higher learning must "open their doors" and invite companies to help them draw up courses that were relevant to today's globalised world.

"Universities must not adopt a sense of exclusivity.

"Don't think that the curriculum is the exclusive domain of academics," he said at the launch of the National Career Carnival 2007 at Universiti Putra Malaysia.

The carnival saw more than 300 companies offering some 7,000 jobs. It also showcased a career exhibition, seminars and talks.

Present at the event were Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapha Mohamed and UPM vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Nik Mustapha Abdullah.

Najib said universities should forge closer co-operation and relationships with companies from the various sectors.

He said collaboration between both parties could be extended to internships, research and development and career opportunities.

He also said universities must produce graduates whose up-to-date skills and knowledge would be attractive to employers.

He said graduates should change their mindset and attitude



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak seems impressed with the convenience of looking for vacancies online while visiting the National Career Carnival 2007 exhibition. — NST picture by Mohd Yusni Ariffin

to successfully penetrate the competitive job market.

"Graduates should ask themselves: What must I do to prepare myself to be among the best to be offered a job?"

"What will success mean to me, my family and my country?," he said.

He said having such attributes

would ensure graduates were pro-active, positive, hardworking and confident.

He added graduates should benchmark themselves with the best in the world to be competitive in the international arena.

Earlier in his speech, Nik Mustapha said the carnival was to increase graduates' employability

and marketability.

He said having up-to-date job skills was no longer an edge but a must for graduates, adding that the ministry encouraged students to have practical training as well as participating in exchange programmes with overseas counterparts to increase their knowledge and competitiveness.