

Top 100 goal for local varsities

KUALA LUMPUR: The government wants public universities to break into the top 100 of the CS World Universities Ranking by 2025.

Second Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said this would be achieved via the holistic approach that the government had adopted in implementing the Malaysian Education Development Plan (PPPM).

He said although local universities had shown continued improvement in global rankings over the past 10 years, the need for students to further their education abroad remains essential, but to universities in the top 100.

Universiti Malaya is ranked 151st in the CS World Universities Ranking, while Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia is 259th, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (294), Universiti Sains Malaysia (309) and Universiti Putra Malaysia (376).

He said the effort to cultivate more marketable graduates began at the implementation of the new Form Three Assessment (PT3) exams, aimed at developing critical and analytical thinkers.

"The PT3 is one among several

landmark decisions to develop students using a holistic approach.

"Teachers are now recruited from among 60 per cent of the highest-achieving school-leavers.

"Lecturers in universities, too, are brought in from abroad to broaden the horizon," said Idris, in response to questions from the floor and netizens on the #TanyaGomen talk show recording at the Content Malaysia Pitching Centre yesterday.

He tackled questions relating to the marketability of local graduates, the quality of the education system, the low global ranking of local universities, the continued need to further education abroad and the outlook of PPPM.

He said the holistic approach included a balance in nurturing entrepreneurial skills, attitude, and knowledge, of which a focus on improvement of the level of English was vital.

A ministry programme that has roped in more than 2,000 teachers and lecturers who are native English speakers serving public colleges and universities is in place, with emphasis given to raising the level of En-

glish through the Cambridge Proficiency Test in schools and the Malaysian University English Test.

"We understood the need to tie universities to industry.

"This is to ensure that our graduates are marketable. We have to push through "two plus two" programmes, where students spend two years in university and two years in the industry to gain practical knowledge.

"Since 2013, we've also worked to bringing our universities closer to industries with tie-ups with major firms, such as Samsung, Rolls Royce, AirAsia, CIMB and others, to ensure that they are relevant to such industries," he said.

"It is no longer about filling slots in local universities, but to ensure what comes out of our universities is in demand in the industry," he said.

On another note, Idris said the Michigan Institute of Technology (MIT), the world's top ranked university on the CS ranking, will open a campus in Kuala Lumpur in September. It is a joint venture between MIT's Sloan School of Management and Bank Negara.

Handwritten notes at the bottom of the page, including "2024" and "2025".