

# Top 100 plan still on

**BREAKING BARRIERS:** Funding cut won't hamper plans to raise 2 local universities to the ranks of the world's best

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**A**LTHOUGH the Higher Education Ministry is getting a lower allocation next year, this will not hamper its plan to have at least two local universities among the world's top 100 by 2020.

Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said this after opening the ministry's Soaring Upwards roadshow here yesterday.

He said Malaysian universities had proved themselves when they improved their positions in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings 2015/2016 with Universiti Malaya breaking through the top 150 barrier when it went up five spots to the 146th place.

Universiti Sains Malaysia was in 289th position, improving by 20 spots, while Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia were ranked 303th, 312th and 331st, respectively.

Idris said next year's allocation of RM13.3 billion, which is 15.25 per cent less than this year, was expected as the government was facing a challenging economic situation.

"The slight drop in allocation will train our universities to be more efficient."

Idris said research universities were encouraged to generate their own income and reduce their dependence on the government to only 70 per cent by 2020.

He said this was in line with the Malaysia Education Blueprint



**Universiti Malaya students** at an event on campus. The varsity broke through the top 150 barrier and **went up five spots to 146th place** in the **Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings 2015/2016**. Pic by Azmaidi Abidin

(Higher Education) 2015-2025.

He said about 90 per cent of the income of local universities came from the government.

"We want them to have more autonomy and be independent. They

must find their own income."

Idris said he was confident that the government might give additional allocation for research activities, which have a strong impact on universities' rankings.