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Education for All – Message from Minister of Educa

Minister of Education, Dr. Maszlee Malik presented his vision on the education sector for the year 2019 in his speech, which emphasised on four aspects – quality, autonomy, collaboration and internalisation.

The speech was delivered before some 3,000 people at the main hall, Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Convention Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (UPM), Serdang on January 14, 2019.

Dr. Mazlee said the four aspects would be in line with the ministry's objective of attaining high quality education that is relevant and effectiveness.

He added that in facing the challenges of fulfilling Vision 2020, the main key was education as it would help the country to reach the target. Education would be the starting point to meet the target.

He also said the integrity of institutes of higher education would be restored and that the disabled and the poor would be given more attention.

"In line with our vision, that is to restore the integrity of public universities and institutes of higher education, with emphasis on values as the core of education, we have outlined four specific directions - quality, autonomy, collaboration and internalisation," he said.

"This tallies with our vision to attain high quality through excellence, relevance and effectiveness," he said.

He added that several changes would be carried out and suggested that academicians to be more visible to the people.

"There was also a need to have more programmes of academic nature, the need for solutions to social problems and to focus more towards developing the nation," he said.

"Apart from this, ethics is another major aspect that needs to be given attention. Bad work ethics, plagiarism, and lack of integrity cannot be compromised in tackling the problems of plagiarisms, bonceng gratis and the madness of getting marks for publication.

"Publications must reflect the intellectual dominance of the person and for the works be made a global reference," he said.

"In the meantime, the quality of research grants will be improved. Grants distributed must be in the form of research grants, translations of major works and must lead towards solving current and substantial problems of the society and the nation," he said.

On the promotion system for lecturers, Dr. Mazlee said the ministry was moving towards the using of artificial intelligence. The system would take in all the efforts and contributions and automatically determine their eligibility for a promotion.

He also said by making the library into a huge and endless knowledge repository, communication system and access to outside publication would be enhanced.

Dr. Mazlee said the aim was to have public universities and institutes of higher education turned into a global university.

On the internationalisation agenda, Dr. Mazlee said it included efforts to increase the number of foreign students in Malaysia an international education hub as well as establishing more local university branches abroad by working with foreign universities.

"The ministry encourages the setting up of foreign university branches in public universities such as the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and calls on academicians to be visible and active in collaborations between local universities and prominent universities and calls on academicians to be visible and active," he said.

He also said in a move to further improve autonomy of universities, key performance index (KPI) of every faculty and department will be reviewed.

size-fits-all nature would be abolished.

The universities would be divided into clusters to create synergy and collaboration so they would not move

On the empowerment of undergraduates, Dr. Mazlee said this would continue to be given attention and was to repeal the Section 15 (1) (c) that restrained the involvement of undergraduates in political activities government's plan to lower the voting age limit to 18.

On promoting collaboration, Dr. Mazlee said the ecosystem to further fuel intellectualism must be increased mentor-mentee relationship between senior professors and new lecturers so more schools of thoughts in the

"In addition to this, universities can team up with other parties to set up endowment from the wakaf, zakat and the tax incentives to initiate endowment through alumni.

"It is the same with the internationalisation of universities as more drastic and comprehensive measures must be produced and translated, the translation process must be actively carried out while rebranding effectively at the global level," he said.

As for polytechnics and community colleges, Dr. Mazlee said these institutions would not be marginalised in the delivery of TVET programme in order to improve graduate employability.

"We have embarked on steps to position MTUN and polytechnics so opportunities for polytechnic graduates are secured. Polytechnics and community colleges have also significantly contributed to creating career paths for those who undergo skills training programme," he said.

Dr. Mazlee also launched the KPM ICT Transformation Plan Book 2019-2023. Among the guests present at the event were Teo Nie Ching, Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dato' Sri Dr. Daing Nasir Ibrahim

In a move to encourage reading among the public, the ministry and Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) will focus towards creating a society that enjoyed reading and seeking knowledge, thus making Malaysia a Reading Nation.

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