

# English only for Science and Maths

MOST of the courses offered at Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) will be taught in English beginning 2005, in line with the Government's policy to teach mathematics and science based courses in the language.

Vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Zohadie Bardaie said this was natural as 70% of UPM's courses were science, technology and mathematics based.

"Bahasa Malaysia will remain as the medium of instruction for all other courses and correspondence with students," he said, clarifying reports in the local press that UPM was switching to English as the main medium of instruction.

The *New Straits Times* had reported that all but three of UPM's courses would be taught in English as part of the university's effort to make its graduates more marketable.

Prof Mohd Zohadie said he felt 'slighted' that an issue was made of the inaccurate report. "My statement was taken out of context. All public universities will be making this switch from next year as the Government decided that Mathematics and Science would be taught in English at all levels," Dr Mohd Zohadie said.

There was a policy change in 2002 that both subjects would be taught in English from 2003 beginning with Year One, Form One and Lower Six students.

The vice-chancellor explained that public universities had to make the switch next year as the first



PROF ZOHADIE: BM will remain the medium of instruction for non-science courses.

batch of Form Six students to learn the subjects in English in schools would enter university then.

"We have allocated RM1mil for the training of lecturers and other necessary changes to ensure a smooth transition," he told *StarEducation* earlier this week.

Science, technology and mathematics courses at UPM are now taught in both Bahasa Malaysia and English. "We cannot just suddenly change the medium of instruction. It is a gradual process," Prof Mohd Zohadie said.

He added that he had sent a written explanation regarding the matter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Higher Education Minister Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh. — **BY GAVIN GOMEZ**