

'Excellent' score for 18 varsities

Minister: Tier Five institutions to get incentives

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PUTRAJAYA: Eighteen higher education institutions achieved Tier Five or "excellent" status in the Rating System for Malaysian Higher Education 2009 (Setara).

Seven of them were public universities and the rest were private universities.

Another 25 institutions – 14 private and 11 public – were classified as Tier Four or "Very Good" while four achieved Tier Three or "Good" status.

No institution managed to get the highest classification of Tier Six, said Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin when announcing the Setara results yesterday (see chart).

"Those in Tier Five will receive incentives like being able to enrol local and foreign government sponsored students, have access to gov-

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DR GHAUTH JASMON

ernment grants and can determine their postgraduate student intake," he said at a press conference.

Mohamed Khaled added that Tier Five private institutions would also be exempted from certain provisions in the Private Higher Educational Institutions Act 1996 (Act 555).

They need not have to apply for teaching permits for lecturers, can determine the salary of foreign lecturers, and set course fees.

Apart from giving education pro-

viders a clear picture of their standing, the Setara results would be used as a basis to improve higher education policies, he added.

When tabling the 10th Malaysia Plan, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that Government funding for public universities would depend on a varsity's performance in Setara.

Universiti Malaya (UM) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ghauth Jasmon said he was happy that UM was placed in Tier Five.

"This shows that we are on the right track," he said.

"It is also a positive development in regards to obtaining grants as what UM needs is more funding to break into the top 100 in the Time Higher Education world university rankings.

"The funding will be used for critical fields like biomedical sciences, physics and nanotechnology," he added.

Tier Five: Excellent universities

Code	Institution
B	Curtin University of Technology Sarawak Campus
A	International Islamic University Malaysia
B	International Medical University
B	Management and Science University
B	Monash University Sunway Campus
B	Sunway University College
B	Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus
B	Taylor's University College
B	The University of Nottingham Malaysia Campus
A	Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
B	Universiti Kuala Lumpur
A	Universiti Malaya
B	Multimedia University
A	Universiti Putra Malaysia
A	Universiti Sains Malaysia
A	Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
A	Universiti Teknologi Mara
B	Universiti Teknologi Petronas

Note: A = public institution, B = private institution

Source: Higher Education Ministry