

PART OF ECRL PROJECT

UMP's pioneer rail technology course to start in September

PEKAN: The pioneering batch of 300 students of **Universiti Malaysia Pahang's (UMP)** rail technology course will start their studies this September, as part of the ambitious East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said this was in line with the UMP's new key performance indicators (KPIs) to focus on rail technology.

"UMP will begin the process of transferring specialty via 300 students set to start the (UMP rail technology) course in September, which is the first of its kind," said Najib, who is also Pekan member of parliament.

"This is in line with UMP's position of being close the ECRL," said Najib.

"This iconic project needs the support of Malaysians with spe-

cialty in rail technology, from its building to its maintenance," he said, adding that a longer version of the course would be introduced in future.

He was speaking at the launch of the construction of the green technology mosque at UMP Pekan campus here yesterday.

He noted that UMP's new focus was in line with its improved world ranking to be among the best 300 universities globally.

"I am proud of UMP's world ranking in the field of engineering and mechanical engineering, where it became among the 300 best universities (in the world).

"This is a good ranking for a university that is considered young," he said, describing UMP as "*permata yang bernilai di hu-*

jung muara Sungai Pahang" (a valuable gem at the end of the estuary of Sungai Pahang).

He said UMP's growing excellence in the field of higher education was seen in the employability of its graduates in the first half of this year.

"Around 95 per cent of UMP graduates (in the first half of this year) have either secured jobs or continued their education (diploma to bachelor's degree to master's)," he said.

Najib added that the government would allocate RM1 million to UMP so that the university could conduct corporate social responsibility programmes.

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh and UMP Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.