

TERTIARY EDUCATION

Our graduates are on a par with foreigners, say professors

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SINTOK: Malaysians should put their faith and confidence in the capability of our public universities to produce quality graduates.

National Public Universities Vice-Chancellors and Rectors Committee urged the people not to be easily influenced by unverified reports, especially on social media and news portals.

Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Mustafa Ishak said it had been proven that graduates from local public or private universities were on a par with foreign graduates.

In criticising a recent online report for distorting a statement made by a Harvard University professor on the quality of Malaysian graduates, Mustafa said some quarters were just interested in sensationalising issues without checking the facts.

"Malaysians should have faith in our universities instead of instantly believing misleading reports shared on social media."

Echoing Mustafa's view was Universiti Malaysia Pahang Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

"Our universities' rankings, graduate employability and accreditation speak for themselves. It is an indicator that local graduates are on a par with foreign ones," said Daing Nasir.

Mustafa and Daing Nasir were speaking after attending a meeting with the committee, comprising vice-chancellors and rectors from 20 public universities, in UUM here yesterday.

Present was Higher Education Ministry director-general Datin Dr Siti Hamisah Tapsir.

Siti Hamisah said the ministry had contacted the researcher who had allegedly made the remark that Malaysian graduates were only as good as Danish high school dropouts.

She said the researcher, who was one of the speakers at the Asia Public Policy Forum 2017 organised by Harvard Kennedy School and the Jeffrey Cheah Institute of Southeast Asia, had denied issuing such a statement.

"He only conducted researches in a neighbouring country and had never done one in Malaysia. Hence, he does not have any data on our education system or local graduates."

"In the email reply, the professor also expressed disappointment that his statement has been spun out of context."

