

Don seeks rating system

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KUANTAN: A rating system for courses offered by public universities in the country should be introduced as it would help undergraduates choose the best course that suit their interests and also meet current demands.

University College of Engineering and Technology Malaysia (Kuktem) rector Prof Datuk Dr Mohamed Said Mat Lela said the rating system would provide details on how good and credible the courses that were available in the country.

"Certain good courses may be found in one university while others are better read at a different university."

"The rating system will give undergraduates better insights on how superior a course in one university is as compared to others," he said in an interview at his office.

He said the move would give undergraduates some satisfaction and pride if they managed to enrol and graduated from a coveted course.

Dr Mohamed Said said the same rating system was already being implemented in the United States.

He said the proposed rating system had been discussed early last year but nothing seemed to come out of it.

Kuktem would not mind taking the initiative to push for the system to be put in place as it could lead to healthy competition among the 18 public universities in the country, he added.

He claimed that one of Kuktem's main focus area - Chemical Engineering - offered sound education as it was a competency-based technical curriculum.

"We have more than 40 testimonials from companies who praised the quality of our graduates and for

a relatively new college university, this will boost our morale higher," Dr Mohamed Said said.

Kuktem is the 16th public university established by the Government on Feb 16, 2002.

It was set up as a competency-based technical university specialising in the fields of engineering and technology.

Dr Mohamed Said said other than having a sound curriculum, other contributing factors to their success include the support of dedicated and hard-working academic staff.

Many of them were award-winning lecturers having garnered various awards both locally and internationally, for numerous research and development projects, he added.

One of them was a mobile ultrasonic ginger extraction machine designed by Ahmad Ziad Sulaiman from the Chemical and Natural Resources Engineering Faculty,

which had already attracted the interest of a Malaysian company, he said.

A memorandum of understanding had already been signed which include paving the way for possible financial support that would enable the invention to be commercially produced and utilised, he added.

"Among those who will benefit from this invention are farmers as the machine is a portable unit and easier to be moved from one location to another and can be used to extract oil or juice from any herbal plants and fruits.

"It augurs well with the Government's efforts to modernise the agriculture sector and introduce value-added products," said Dr Mohamed Said.

He also urged players in the industrial sector to join in their research and development projects as the inventions were practical and had huge commercial potential.