

## **R & D Projects Failed Due To Selfish Attitude Of IPT Administrators, Says Mustapa**

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 12 (Bernama) -- Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed today expressed regret over the selfish attitude of the administrators of some public and private institutions of higher learning (IPT) in the country.

Describing them as egoistic, he said their attitude hampered progress of Research and Development (R&D) projects.

He said the situation had led to overlapping of projects being carried out by the public and private institutions of higher learning, which resulted in wastage of grants allocated for such research.

"What's happening now is that all universities are competing to get funds for their research without considering the interest of the research to the country.

"If all are egoistic and greedy, how are we going to enhance collaboration between the public and private institutions of higher learning, he said at the closing of a national energy and water forum here today.

He said if the situation could be rectified and cooperation could be meted among the institutions of higher learning, more research could be done.

Earlier, Mustapa witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Universiti Tenaga Nasional (Uniten) and the Kuala Lumpur International University College (KLIUC) on a three-year R&D collaboration in energy and water, involving a RM10 million grant from the Higher Education Ministry.

He hoped the collaboration would be a catalyst for other public and private institutions of higher learning as well as encourage the research culture in institutions of higher learning.

"We have 32,000 lecturers and professionals in institutions of higher learning, including 10,000 lecturers and professionals in private institutions of higher learning. If utilised correctly, Malaysia can be a pioneer in research work," he added.

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