

8 varsities get nod to accredit courses

By Kristina George
kageorge@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: Highly-recognised universities will be allowed to accredit their courses internally after getting the approval from the Higher Education Ministry.

The universities no longer need to go through the Malaysian Qualification Agency (MQA).

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin yesterday said eight universities, four of which were private universities, had been awarded the authority to accredit their courses.

"The MQA had conducted an audit on all eight universities based on the Code of Practice In Institutional Audit and found that they complied with all the requirements and guidelines to carry out their own accreditations.

"The ministry is also open to other universities and higher learning institutes that want to accredit their courses. Those who think they are qualified enough can send in their applications," he said.

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Swinburne University of Technology

Sarawak, University of Nottingham Malaysia, Monash University of Sunway and Curtin University of Sarawak had been awarded the rights to conduct their own accreditations.

"However, professional courses offered by these higher learning institutions still need to undergo accreditation by professional bodies," Khaled said adding that MQA would continue to monitor the system for at least five years.

The monitoring would ensure that the universities abide by the standards set by MQA and the government.