

# No need for another varsity, says Taib

## Low population cannot justify need for one more

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**KUCHING:** Sarawak has no plans to set up another public university, at least for now.

Chief Minister Tan Sri Abdul Taib Mahmud said Sarawak's low population did not justify the need for another tertiary institution.

"For the time being, it is worthwhile to get reputable universities to come in and develop their own campuses in Sarawak. I think Curtin and Swinburne universities have proven themselves and both are doing quite well," he told reporters at his office at Wisma Pelita here yesterday.

Earlier, he received a copy of the Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus' certificate of self-accreditation status from the chairman of the university council, Tan Sri Adenan Saitem.

Taib, who is also Pro-Chancellor of Swinburne Sarawak Campus, said the university was looking forward to having more than

4,000 students next year.

The Sarawak campus now has more than 3,000 students.

He said Swinburne recently received the self-accreditation status award from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) after an audit on the campus in October last year.

The MQA is a statutory body responsible for monitoring and overseeing quality assurance practices and accreditation of national higher education institutions.

The self-accrediting award signifies that the university has a quality assurance system that meets the criteria and requirements to ensure the accreditation process is carried out effectively and gives Swinburne Sarawak the autonomy to accredit its courses internally without going through the MQA.

Taib said following Swinburne's success formula, the state would encourage private universities with very high quality of education to group together to attract foreign and local students.