

## ADVISORY NOTE NO. 3/2016

MQA Act 2007  
(Act 679)

### CESSATION OF ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

**Section 40 (5)(b)**  
**Certificate of Provisional Accreditation**

**Section 47 (3)(b), Section 58 (4)(b), Section 67 (4)(b)**  
**Certificate of Accreditation**

**Section 100 (1)(b)**  
**Offences and Penalties Relating to Certificate**

#### INTRODUCTION

This advisory is issued pursuant to MQA Act 679, Sections 40 5(b), 47 3(b), 58 4(b) and 67 4(b) which require the Higher Education Providers (HEPs) to return the certificate of provisional accreditation or accreditation of an accredited programme which is not offered or discontinued or terminated. For the purpose of the above stated sections, a programme is deemed ceased if the approval to run the programme is no longer valid or programme is not conducted for a period of more than two years.

#### ISSUE

The recent maintenance audits of HEPs showed that some HEPs have discontinued accredited programmes and have not returned their certificates because they may reoffer these programmes in the future. Many public HEPs have of late started to rationalise their programme offerings to be more focused and to better utilise their staff resources. Some older programmes have been discontinued due to lack of student interest or industry relevance.

#### RESPONSIBILITY OF HEP

MQA must be duly informed and the certificate returned forthwith when an HEP decides to terminate its accredited programmes. MQA will update the Malaysian Qualifications Register (MQR) of the cessation of the programmes. To revive or reoffer the same programme, the HEP must reapply to MQA.

#### IMPACT ON QUALITY ASSURANCE

Many HEPs are unaware of this requirement to return the certificate of provisional accreditation or accreditation. Failure to do so can result in a fine upon conviction of up to twenty thousand ringgit or a maximum of 1 year imprisonment or both as stated in Section 100 (1)(b).