

Malaysian higher education meets international standards – MQA

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SINTOK, June 14: The quality of Malaysia's higher education remains internationally recognised and should not be linked to concerns over graduate employability, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) chief executive officer Prof Datuk Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran said. He said graduates today need to equip themselves with added value and a broader range of skills to remain competitive in an increasingly challenging job market, as strong academic results alone are no longer sufficient to secure employment.

According to Mohammad Shatar, competition in the job market is becoming increasingly intense, requiring graduates to possess additional competencies beyond academic qualifications. He emphasized that skills such as multilingual proficiency, critical thinking, adaptability to technological advancements, and the ability to respond to changing industry demands are essential for employability. While a strong cumulative grade point average (CGPA) may help graduates secure job interviews, employment opportunities ultimately depend on the added value and practical skills they bring to the workplace. He also rejected claims that declining standards in Malaysia's higher education system contribute to graduate unemployment, stating that programmes accredited by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) meet international standards and are designed according to industry requirements. Meanwhile, UUM vice-chancellor Prof. Dr. Ahmad Martadha Mohamed highlighted the university's commitment to continuously enhancing its curriculum to align with current industry needs. This includes integrating artificial intelligence (AI) elements into various academic programmes and regularly obtaining feedback from industry representatives through the Industry Advisory Council. UUM is also planning to establish an international industry advisory panel involving multinational companies. In addition, the university promotes professional certifications and operates the School of Hard Knocks (SoHK) programme, which provides final-year students with industry exposure. These initiatives aim to ensure that UUM graduates remain competitive, relevant, and highly sought after by employers both locally and internationally.

