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PRODUCING VALUES DRIVEN GRADUATES

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THE much anticipated Malaysia Education Blueprint (Higher Education) is expected to further encourage a change in values in the current national education environment. Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia (USIM) Chair of Islamic Leadership Professor Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak said it was vital for the nation to produce holistic graduates with strong fundamental values.

"Higher learning institutions are places where knowledge is produced, preserved, organised and transmitted for the benefit the society.

"Higher learning institutions contribute towards a transfer of knowledge to the community," he said.

However, Dzulkipli said that due to economic and social changes, higher

learning institutions have increasingly diverted their resources and attention towards graduate employability at the expense of nurturing holistic individuals and providing resources to empower community development.

He said universities should not lose its nature of imparting universal knowledge.

"We do not want our students' perspective to become too narrow, rendering them unable to look at things in a proper and comprehensive manner," he said.

Dzulkipli, who is also the International Association of Universities president, also lauded efforts by the government to empower technical, vocational, education and training (TVET) as a premier choice in the blueprint, which will be launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak on April 7.

He said tertiary education should be diversified through vocational colleges, polytechnics and community colleges, as

well as the four technical universities in the country.

He also stressed that the blueprint was based on the National Education Plan which aimed to produce holistic and integrated values-driven talent.

The blueprint, is in fact, a continuation of the Malaysia Education Blueprint for schools and the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN).

The blueprint includes 10 shifts on enterprising, holistic, balanced graduates, higher education talent excellence, lifelong learning community and quality TVET graduates.

The six other shifts are financial sustainability, empowering governance, enhancement of ecosystem innovation, renowned system at global level, global online learning and delivery of higher education for transformation.

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