

Joint decision for students' good

I REFER to your article "When educational institutions sacrifice quality for expediency" that was published on April 7 in Star Education.

In discussing the limitations of implementing initial franchise programmes run at private colleges, your writer had made reference to Multimedia University's (MMU) engineering programme franchised to Inti College.

She quoted MMU vice-chancellor as saying two years ago that the programme had been stopped because private colleges could not replicate the "full degree experience" due to their limited physical and teaching resources.

These words were immediately followed by: "Inti students were luckier though as MMU agreed to absorb all the 200 students affected."

I am greatly disappointed that Inti College has been portrayed in such a damaging manner -- the implication is that we have limited physical and teaching resources.

The truth of the matter is that both INTI College and MMU had decided to stop the franchised engineering programmes.

Since MMU had yet to obtain approval to franchise its programmes to private colleges from the Education Ministry (under the new Education Acts), both institu-

tions agreed to transfer all students enrolled in the franchised programme at Inti College Malaysia to the MMU main campus in Cyberjaya.

The decision was motivated by a strong desire on the part of both institutions to protect the interests of our students who were then about to identify their majors. The MMU programmes were franchised to Inti College in 1997/1998 on the understanding that the approval from the ministry was forthcoming.

In the time that we were collaborating with each other, MMU was satisfied with the quality of Inti Colleges physical facilities and teaching staff who had to be approved by MMU, as proven by the minutes of our regular meetings.

Inti College is today a premier private college with worldwide linkages and a reputation that has been built over a period of more than 15 years. It is also widely accepted that the college has one of the finest infrastructure and teaching and learning facilities available in any local private college.

We hope in future any mention of the Inti-MMU franchised programme will be fair to us.

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