

Upgrade for six varsity colleges

By SIMRIT KAUR

educate@thestar.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: When Malaysia ushers in the New Year in about two weeks, it will also celebrate the birth of six new public universities.

This follows a government decision to upgrade public university colleges in various states, from Perlis in the north to Johor in the south and eastwards in Pahang and Terengganu.

Little Perlis, which now houses Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan Utara Malaysia (Kukum), will see the institute becoming a full-fledged university, and renamed Universiti Malaysia Perlis.

Terengganu-based Kolej Universiti Sains dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kustem) will be known as Universiti Malaysia Terengganu while Kolej Universiti Kejuruteraan dan Teknologi Malaysia (Kuktem) will become Universiti Malaysia Pahang.

Kolej Universiti Teknikal Kebangsaan Malaysia (Kutkm) will become Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Malacca while Kolej Universiti Islam Malaysia in Nilai, Negri Sembilan, will change its name to Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia.

Kolej Universiti Teknologi Tun Hussein Onn in Batu Pahat, named after the country's third prime minister, has been rebranded Universiti

THE SIX NEW PUBLIC VARSITIES

Universiti Malaysia Perlis

**Universiti Malaysia
Terengganu**

**Universiti Malaysia
Pahang**

**Universiti Teknikal
Malaysia Malacca**

**Universiti Sains Islam
Malaysia**

**Universiti Teknologi Tun
Hussein Onn**

said that he was looking into their request.

Announcing the decision yesterday, Mustapa said the name-change of these public institutes of higher learning did not mean they would change their focus.

"They were initially set up to offer hands-on training in the fields of science, technology and engineering.

"I hope they will intensify their efforts to develop more industrial linkages," he told reporters at his ministry's Quality and Integrity Day