

TWINNING PROGRAMMES

In March 1995, the Legal Profession Qualifying Board, Malaysia (the Qualifying Board) announced the new requirements and criteria for holders of recognised LL.B degrees from universities and institutions in the United Kingdom (U.K) to qualify to sit for the Malaysian Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) examination conducted by the Qualifying Board. These new requirements are found in the Qualifying Board's publication entitled "*New Guidelines on Qualifications and Requirements to qualify to sit for the Malaysian Certificate in Legal Practice (CLP) Examination (for law degrees from the United Kingdom)*" (New Guidelines). These new requirements will come into effect and be implemented starting 1 October 1998.

One of the matters dealt with in the New Guidelines is twinning programmes and arrangements between local colleges and universities in the U.K. Rule E(i) of the New Guidelines specifies that a twinning programme or arrangement is recognised only if it consists of one academic year study in Malaysia followed by at least two academic years of study in the U.K (1+2 format).

In view of the current economic downturn being experienced by the country and as a move to support the Government's policy of saving foreign exchange and to save costs, the Qualifying Board, at its meeting on 27 February 1998, has decided to suspend for an indefinite period the operation of Rule E(i) above. During the period of suspension, local colleges are allowed to offer twinning programmes with U.K universities which may consist of two academic years of study in Malaysia followed by one academic year study at the U.K university which is the partner in that twinning arrangement (2+1 format).

With the above decision, the requirements in Rule E(ii) of the New Guidelines remain the same except that where it refers to “*one academic year study in Malaysia*” shall now be read as “*two academic years of study in Malaysia*”. The requirements in Rule E(iii) remain unchanged.

Colleges offering twinning programmes are advised to maintain the quality of their programmes and the Qualifying Board will derecognise a programme for the purposes of the CLP if it is found that the decision to suspend the operation of Rule E(i) above is being abused in relation to that programme.

This statement is issued on 7th March 1998.

sgd.

.....
TAN SRI DATO' MOHTAR BIN ABDULLAH
Chairman