'Administrators play key role in shaping public varsities goals'

PUTRAJAYA: University administrators are the architects responsible for shaping their respective institutions' administration towards realising the philosophy and values of knowledge as well as academic achievement, said Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali.

In his virtual keynote address to administrators of the country’s public universities, Zuki said that universities today should not only be seen as higher learning institutions, but also as centres of knowledge and research, as well as wisdom and intellect that formed the nation’s culture and civilisation.

He added that universities should not be trapped by the corporate culture as they were not corporate bodies, whose sole aim was to make profits.

“Universities cannot be solely driven by their vision, mission and corporate values alone, and must also be governed by philosophy and the value of knowledge and academic achievement. “Universities must adhere to the principles and spirit of common sense that celebrates the diversity of knowledge, and serve as a strong bridge connecting the house of knowledge and research with others,” he said when officiating the 2020 Public Universities Administrators Convention online yesterday.

Based on the records, a total of 93,638 (5.85 per cent) of civil servants in the country were staff members of public universities, and about 9,652 (10.3 per cent) of those were professional administrators.

The online convention was organised in a collaboration between Malaysian Council of Public Universities Administrators’ Association (Masti), Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT), Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) and Malaysian Public Universities Registrar Committee.

At the event, Zuki also launched the 3rd Masti special publication, which included 23 articles written by the administrators.