Only 6 private universities allowed to offer long distance learning programmes

ONLY six private Higher Learning Institutions (IPTS) have been authorised to offer long distance learning programmes since Oct 31, the Dewan Negara was told yesterday. Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Saifuddin Abdullah said the institutions are the Al-Madinah International University, Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Wawasan Open University, Malaysia Open University, Asia e-University and the International Centre for Education in Islamic Finance. He said the course curriculum to be conducted by the universities need to be formed so that it achieved the specified result and followed guidelines set by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

"To ensure the quality control of IPTS in terms of curriculum and long distance learning, the ministry continues to supervise and monitor the universities periodically," he said in reply to a question from Datuk Dr Johari Mat in Dewan Negara yesterday. Saifuddin said a higher education committee was set up to approve and monitor courses offered by universities, including long distance learning programmes. He said the MQA has also developed the open and distance learning practice code to help universities ensure quality of long distance learning programmes is on par with those carried out conventionally. Meanwhile, Saifuddin said last year two IPTS had their approval of establishment cancelled and two others had their registration revoked under the IPTS Act 1996. "In 2012, only one IPTS had its approval of establishment cancelled," he said. — Bernama