**WORKSHOP ON DOCUMENTATION
FOR MALAYSIAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (MQF)
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**OPENNING SPEECH
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Under the National Mission, the Ministry of Higher Education has outlined the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (PSPTN) that consists of seven main thrusts to strategise higher education policies and implementation for the development of human capital with first class mentality for the development of the nation.

As a public university, the management team together with academician, are at the forefront and are to be responsible to realize these seven thrusts as outlined in PSPTN as well as the Strategic and Action Plans of UMS.

We are well aware that in line with Malaysia's long term development plans and the aspiration of the Ministry of Higher Education for the transformation of higher education in the country, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) has developed a series of guidelines, standards and code of practices to enhance academic performance and institutional effectiveness. I highlight three very important related developments here:

Firstly, effective from **1/1/2009**, all academic programmes offered by all public and private universities in Malaysia need to adhere to the MQF standards and procedures and accredited by MQA, which replaced those issued by the previous Lembaga Akreditasi Negara (LAN). This means that new proposed academic programmes MUST be prepared in accordance to the guidelines provided by MQA i.e. Code of Practice for Institutional Accreditation (COPIA) as well as Code of Practice for Programme Accreditation (COPPA) and follow their respective procedures. This implies that **all existing programmes offered by schools need to document all nine areas of the programmes based on MQF.**

Secondly, in line with the first phase of PSPTN, all higher education institutions are required to undergo an **Academic Performance Audit (APA)** between December 2008 and March 2009. Every programme in every school school/centre/institute/unit needs to prepare and submit relevant information in accordance to the guidelines set by MQA. This implies that UMS needs to **get ready the documents for all programmes by the end of March 2009.**

Thirdly, the recent meeting organised by Ministry of Higher Education on evaluation of teaching and learning and soft skills for academic programs at IPTA has outlined several **changes toward achieving quality curriculum development** at IPTA. These changes are necessary in order to strengthen our academic programmes in term of quality and recognition.

In UMS, the Centre for Academic Advancement (PPA) is taking every necessary step to ensure that every one (including top management, academic and administrative staff) is well informed about these changes, and to improve the quality of our academic programmes.

In order to facilitate the implementation of these changes by MQA and Ministry of Higher Education, your understanding of these guidelines and requirements are crucial , and I am deeply pleased to see that PPA has taken the proactive way by organizing such workshop to create the awareness and as a practical approach on preparing management team, academic and administrative staff to prepare their respective academic programmes in accordance with MQA standards and requirements by Ministry of Higher Education.

It is hoped that this workshop will enhance your understanding of MQF and its guidelines as well as will facilitate your preparation of academic programmes and course syllabus format for your individual schools. This two-day workshop is deemed timely and useful to improve academic quality by meeting the specific criteria and requirements as set by MQF and KPT**.** Specifically, the workshop focuses on the MQF requirements i.e. preparation of submission of new programmes, preparation of

course syllabi format, learning outcomes and soft skills, as well as calculation of student learning times.

As we are moving towards achieving research university status, quality is pertinent for everyone's daily activities in UMS. To all academic lecturers and administrative staff, please **take note of the guidelines, standards and changes made by MQA and KPT**, All programmes, including course syllabi, will be audited SOON!!. All lecturers are expected to adhere to the MQA requirements when preparing their course syllabi.

I am truly pleased to see that PPA, as the driver of academic excellence at UMS, is taking aggressive steps to support and to facilitate the implementation of these changes and ensuring requirements set are being implemented at UMS. Thus, it is crucial that management team, heads of program and all lecturers are totally committed to implement these changes. Every one of you plays vital roles in different capacities to ensure that these changes take place.

To see the importance of carrying out this documentation exercise, I invite everyone to reflect on the implications and effects on our stakeholders, e.g. graduates, industry, and the nation if any of our programmes fails to be accredited. Therefore I urge all of you to put in all your resources to make this job a success. On my part, I will play my part by giving my fullest support. For example, I will support the deans if you need more financial resources for employing temporary workers for the documentation process. I will also ask the Director of PPA to report to me periodically the progress of your work.

I hope everyone do there best this two-day workshop and undertake the remaining jobs after the workshop with commitment and enthusiasm. The rewards of your hard work will manifest in the form of accreditation of your programmes and, indirectly, the employability of our graduates.

Lastly, my sincere thanks go to the organizing committee, the PPA, for such an important and timely workshop.