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RM1m boost for foundation

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PETALING JAYA, Fri. - Yayasan Budiman Universiti Teknologi Mara tonight received a shot in the arm when an anonymous person donated RM1 million to its fund.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad received the donation from a representative of the donor at a dinner hosted by the foundation at Sunway Lagoon Resort.

The RM1 million was made up of RM100,000 in cash, RM100,000 in kind, shares worth RM200,000 and a RM600,000 shophouse.

Besides the donor, the foundation which was established last year with the main aim of assisting needy students from the university to pursue their studies, also received donations from several companies and individuals.

Praising the donors, Dr Mahathir said the funds would enable the foundation to finance its activities and programmes.

Besides, he said, it would also help towards easing the Government's burden in providing aid to poor students.

The Prime Minister said he believed those behind the foundation wanted to help those in need as a way to repay the university for providing them with education and the opportunity to succeed.

"A society which is ungrateful will result in the people losing any link between one another, between the old and young.

"For example, after graduating, the people (who are ungrateful) will simply forget about their universities," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the UiTM Alumni should be proud as from a humble beginning, it was now the university with the largest number of students and graduates in the country.

"Many did not realise that scores of UiTM graduates, who are now successful people in various fields, were actually the product of the university.

"One tends to think that whenever one is successful, one must be an overseas graduate."

Dr Mahathir also urged the 130,000 former UiTM students to donate to the foundation.

The Prime Minister's wife, Datuk Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, also presented aid from the foundation to five UiTM students.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi and Selangor Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Abu Hassan Omar.

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