

HELP FOR UNDERGRADUATES IN NEED

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Govt launches new foundation with RM5m allocation to aid varsity students

PUTRAJAYA

PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday launched the Yayasan Kebajikan Siswa Keluarga Malaysia, which will take on the role of assisting undergraduates in need.

As a start, he said the government would allocate RM5 million for the foundation, channelled through the Finance Ministry, as a sign of support to ensure continuity of operations, and allow it to achieve its goals.

"The foundation will collaborate with all existing aid channels and foundations in higher learning institutions (IPT) to facilitate distribution of aid to students who need assistance.

"As such, I would like to remind all agencies and parties involved to expedite and make the application process easier so that aid can be immediately channelled to undergraduates in need," he said.

Speaking at the virtual launch



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob at the virtual launch of Yayasan Kebajikan Siswa Keluarga Malaysia streamed on the Higher Education Ministry's Facebook page yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

of the foundation on the Higher Education Ministry's official Facebook page, Ismail Sabri said the establishment of the foundation was proof of the government's concern for the welfare of students, which included inclusiveness, togetherness and gratitude, as stated in the concept of Keluarga Malaysia.

Present were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini

Ahmad and Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz.

Following the foundation's establishment, Ismail Sabri hoped that the management and coordination of student welfare affairs would be integrated with the involvement of all parties that reflected the concept of Keluarga Malaysia.

Elaborating on the foundation,

he said Yayasan Kebajikan Siswa Keluarga Malaysia, which had the status of an official body at national level, was established under Act 258 and regulated by the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister's Department.

He also called on student representative councils and undergraduates to carry out their responsibilities in ensuring that none of their fellow students in

need were left out in terms of aid.

"Like how it is in a family, each member in need must be assisted and such noble values must also be adopted by every undergraduate. It is very important for undergraduates to treat their fellow students as part of a big family who need each other's support."

He said before the foundation was established, the government had introduced several aid packages for undergraduates throughout the pandemic.

These included the B40 data plan aid involving an allocation of RM24 million that benefited more than 300,000 students, and the B40 device targeted aid for almost 9,000 students through a RM13 million allocation.

"A moratorium on National Higher Education Fund Corporation loans, which benefits 1.5 million borrowers, was also initiated.

"And the latest is the e-Tunai contribution through the e-Belia programme for undergraduates aged between 18 and 20," Ismail Sabri said, adding that the assistance reflected the government's commitment to ease the burden of campus residents.

Ismail Sabri called on the 1.2 million undergraduates in the country to hold fast to the principle of togetherness regardless of religion, race and ethnicity.

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