

1.5 million students to get discount cards

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PUTRAJAYA: About 1.5 million university and college students will enjoy benefits provided by the 1Malaysia Student Discount Card, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

He said this was proof the government paid attention to students' needs.

He said the idea for a discount card, or KDS1M, came about during last year's National Student Consultative Council meetings.

The introduction of the card, he said, came six months after the idea was mooted and was the fastest implementation he had seen.

"This is proof that the government pays attention to students' views. We took action quickly, in line with the 1Malaysia concept of putting people first.

"I hope students will spend wisely and I believe the card will bring them many benefits," he said at the launch of the card, here, yesterday.

Muhyiddin said 51 companies had joined KDS1M, which offered students discounts of between five and 60 per cent for books, food and beverages and information technology products.

Students will receive the card automatically. It is free for Malaysian students in public and private institutions.

They just have to present the card, along with their student card, to enjoy the benefits.

Higher learning institutions will provide students' details to the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry, which will, in turn, pass them on to Bank Rakyat for the cards to be produced.

The card is valid until students graduate.

Ismail Sabri said the card would be distributed to students in September, which is the beginning of the new semester in most institutions.

He said the card would be given to students in stages, starting with those in their final year.

The 51 companies in the scheme were doing it as part of their corporate social responsibility, he said.

He said the ministry was considering giving a similar card to foreign students.

Earlier, at the opening of the council, Muhyiddin urged undergraduates to have an open mind when it came to the government's policies.

"I believe you want the best for the nation and will strive to preserve the peace and harmony we enjoy today."

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