

**Lead by example by offering free education in Unisel, PR told  
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By Lisa J. Ariffin**

SHAH ALAM, July 9 — The Selangor government should lead by example by offering free education in Universiti Selangor (Unisel), a BN state assemblyman said today.

Taman Templer assemblyman Datuk Subahan Kamal said today if the Selangor government was really "sincere in helping the students, then make Unisel free".

"Then you can say 'We lead by example. We have done it, so the federal government has to do it'," he told a press conference here.

"If it's true Pakatan Rakyat (PR) wants to help the students, then use Unisel as a model," he said.

Subahan (picture) explained subsidies for Unisel tuition fees would amount to RM30 million, pointing out that the Selangor government had "RM2.2 billion in reserves".

"So lead by example," he urged.

"Don't have to ask for PTPTN (National Higher Education Corporation) loan; let them (students) study for free then."

Subahan also said tuition fees in Unisel have increased since the PR government took over in 2008.

"Before it was much cheaper. Now the courses have been reduced and the fees are much higher so it's more expensive than it was before," he said.

On June 9, the federal government reversed its move to suspend PTPTN loans for Selangor-owned universities after it drew fierce criticism from PR politicians who were joined by some BN leaders fearing a political backlash.

It came just days after the freeze was first announced and a day after Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin defended the move as a "fair test", which was seen as aimed at laying bare PR's campaign for free university education.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Khaled Nordin had insisted the reason the PTPTN loan freeze on Unisel was lifted was because the university disagreed with PR policies.

PKR strategic director Rafizi Ramli had said he was confident the state government would have been able to pay for the education of the university students affected had Putrajaya decided to prolong the loan freeze.

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