

UMS, UTM start water supply cooperation

TBP 06.06.2023 P.02

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) welcome the call for continued water supply at UMS by Higher Education Minister, Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin.

As an initial step, UMS and UTM conducted a related discussion on the matter and the cooperation started at UMS Labuan International Campus (UMSKAL), said UMS Vice Chancellor, Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Hj Mansor.

In relation to that, the visit to the site at UMSKAL will be conducted in the near future to identify the significance of the water issue, he said.

"It is understood that UTM is prepared to offer membrane technology specialist service and desalination process to overcome the water supply issue facing UMSKAL which is used to benefit 53 rural schools nationwide and to get rid of salt from sea water at Kg Pantai Senok, Bachok, Kelantan since 2017.

"The system at the village is capable of producing 500,000 liters of clean water daily from the sea water," he added.

Kasim also said that the effort to distill the sea water to fresh water is expected to be able to supply water needs to about 3,000 students at UMSKAL.

Kasim also said the Unity Government's plan to create a MADANI nation needs to involve all levels of society from every region and tribe so that they feel that they are also part of the Malaysian population without feeling marginalized and isolated.

"Leaders need to be kind and give justice so that development and defense are fairer and felt by all parties," he said.

He added the Prime Minister is aware of the water, electricity and poor road conditions faced by the people in Sabah. Therefore, several initiatives will be successful together with the State Government in solving all the people's problems.

"Taking into account this problem also has a direct impact on the well-being and smoothness of the learning process of female students at Universiti Malaysia Sabah, especially the water issue at the residential college, therefore the Prime Minister has approved an allocation of RM3 million immediately to implement the drilling project and water treatment center at UMS. This is good news that all UMS citizens are looking forward to.

"As Vice-Chancellor, UMS is very pleased and very happy with the allocation that has been announced by the Prime Minister following the escalating water problem," he said.

"All the citizens of Universiti Malaysia Sabah would like to express their deepest appreciation and gratitude to the Prime Minister of Malaysia for choosing UMS Kota Kinabalu as the location for the Anwar Meeting Program @UMS Kota Kinabalu for this session. The allocation of RM3 million approved by the Prime Minister will be best used in dealing with the water problem that has plagued the well-being of campus residents, especially UMS female students, for the past few months," Kasim said.