

193 UMS students shortlisted for tuition fee waiver

TBP 05.10.2024 P.05

KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has shortlisted 193 new intake students for the Siswa Sulung 2.0 Programme.

Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapha Sakmud announced that this initiative, part of the Madani government's efforts, offers tuition fee waiver to first-generation students from B40 families enrolling in public universities for their first degree.

"Every year, we hear about the struggles that parents and guardians face with registration fees and preparations for their children entering university.

"Since last year, the government made it easier for them by allowing registration without fees. Additionally, an advance of RM1,500 will be credited to their accounts to help with necessary purchases like clothing, stationery and toiletries," he explained.

"The new Siswa Sulung 2.0 Programme has received positive feedback, with UMS reporting 193

shortlisted candidates," he said.

Mustapha expressed hope that those eligible would soon receive approval.

He made these remarks after moderating a Talk To Us (TTU) forum with UMS' new students on Friday. This forum provides a platform for students to share their views and experiences, allowing the university to address relevant issues.

During the two-hour session, many students inquired about scholarships and financial aid. Mustapha noted that he would address several issues raised, particularly the timeline for assistance from federal and state governments, to help students prepare adequately.

He acknowledged that many students are unaware of the financial aid options available to them, stressing the need for better awareness to prevent any students from declining university offers due to financial difficulties.

Mustapha moderating the TTU forum at UMS.