



Crisnanalina (third right) receiving the RM3,000 contribution from James, delivered by Justinus at her home on Thursday.

Paitan girl receives assistance to register at UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: Community Development and People's Well-Being Minister Datuk James Ratib has provided RM3,000 in financial assistance to 20-year-old Crisnanalina Jumis from Kampung Dalamas, Paitan, to support her studies at the University of Malaysia Sabah (UMS).

The assistance was delivered on Thursday by his public relations secretary, Justinus Jalong Crisnanalina, who was accepted into UMS after completing Form 6 at SMK Pitas, expressed her gratitude for the

"As Sugut assemblyman, I am committed to helping those in need, regardless of political beliefs, but it's important for them to reach out. Don't remain silent due to political differences," James stated in a media release.

It was revealed that Crisnanalina's family did not contact the assemblyman's office or the Sugut Community Development Unit about their financial difficulties.

James acknowledged that political differences or other constraints might discourage

"I am always ready to help with issues related to hospital fees and education for children in my area. This is why I recently launched the Datuk James Ratib (DJR) Education Fund for Sugut, to ensure that no child from Sugut is left behind in their education, especially in pursuing university studies," he explained.

James announced that starting next year, the DJR Education Fund will assist underprivileged students, aiming to prevent similar financial challenges in the future.

With education fund no students from Sugut should miss out on college or university

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"With the DJR Education Fund launching in 2025, no students from Sugut should miss out on college or university due to financial constraints.

"This fund will cover expenses such as registration fees and other upfront costs, alleviating the burden on families," he said.

He urged students from Sugut receiving offers for further education to reach out for support.

"As the Sugut representative, I am always open to assisting in any way I can. If I am not informed of the issues, I cannot help," he added, noting he only learned of Crisnanalina's situation through a local newspaper report.

Crisnanalina expressed her heartfelt thanks to James for his concern and financial contribution, which will significantly ease her expenses during her studies at UMS.

Her story gained attention after it was revealed that she faced financial constraints despite receiving an offer to study at UMS.

Her family struggled to afford the RM3,000 required for registration by the October 14 deadline, along with other expenses.

Crisnanalina attempted to apply for financial assistance through the state government's website but encountered difficulties due to weak internet connectivity in her village.

Meanwhile, Deputy Higher Education Minister Datuk Ts Mustapha Sakmud expressed gratitude for the concern shown by Malaysians for the educational needs of Sabah children facing difficulties in pursuing university studies.

"It is true what people say 'It takes a village to raise a child'.

"I am deeply thankful to the media and the Malaysian public for their genuine concern about higher education opportunities for Sabah's children.

"Crisnanalina's situation

reflects the reality faced by many children in rural areas.

"I have been briefed by UMS that Crisnanalina will be brought from her village and registered at UMS this Friday. We are making every effort to facilitate the registration process for students in need," said Mustapha.

According to the Sepanggar member of parliament, the Ministry of Higher Education, through the Student Welfare and also Finance Division at UMS, will match appropriate assistance to ensure the students' educational costs and welfare are managed.

Mustapha emphasised that such assistance is not limited to Crisnanalina's case but is available for all students in higher education institutions.

He noted that the Madani government prioritizes education by providing various forms of support from the Federal and State Governments through universities.

"The ministry's Yayasan Perkasia Siswa will also provide an initial educational grant of RM1,000, which will be transferred directly to Crisnanalina's account to help her prepare for her studies.

"Once again, I express my heartfelt thanks for everyone's concern. This spirit of caring should continue among the people, reflecting the principle of Ihsan in the Malaysia Madani vision," he said.

UMS had allowed Crisnanalina to defer paying her RM3,000 registration fee.

UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor had instructed the Student Welfare and Finance Division of the UMS Student Affairs Department to contact Crisnanalina to facilitate her university admission registration.

Kasim also assured new UMS students that they need not worry about paying university registration fees, as UMS has implemented various initiatives, including the option to defer registration fees, to ensure students can complete their registration without financial concerns.