

UMS welcomes RM15m funding for 'Dapur Siswa Madani'

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) deputy vice chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Prof Dr Raman Noordin has welcomed the prime minister's announcement of RM15 million funding to implement free food initiatives and food banks under the 'Dapur Siswa Madani' programme.

Raman said the allocation reflects the Madani government's concern and commitment to safeguard student welfare, particularly regarding basic food needs.

He noted that the initiative, introduced by the Higher Education Ministry (KPT) and expanded to all institutions of higher learning, is highly appropriate in addressing student food security while allowing students to focus on learning and personal development.

"In line with this initiative, UMS, through the Centre for Non-Resident Management



Prof Dr Raman Noordin

and Student Housing Facilities (PNRF), took proactive steps by establishing Student Kitchens at two residential colleges on the main Kota Kinabalu campus, which began operations on Nov 24, 2025," he said.

He added that the Student Kitchen at UMS International Campus Residential College in Labuan is currently under construction and is expected to be completed next month.

"Plans are also underway to expand the programme to the Faculty of Sustainable Agriculture in Sandakan to ensure more inclusive benefits," he said.

To ensure sustainability, various campaigns have been implemented, such as the '1 Staff 1 Sack of Rice' campaign and the establishment of the Student Kitchen Trust Fund, which encourage staff and the local community to contribute while fostering a caring environment.

"Since its introduction, the Student Kitchen has received 1150 kilogrammes of rice, benefitting approximately 3500 students.

"With the special allocation from the prime minister through KPT, more students will receive assistance, particularly at UMS where 70 per cent of students are from the B40 (low-income) group," he said.

Raman expressed gratitude to the Higher Education Minister for securing the allocation and stressed that UMS will continue working closely with the ministry and all stakeholders to ensure no student is left behind, in line with the vision of a well-being-oriented learning ecosystem grounded in Madani values.