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UMS students affected by recent fire receive financial support

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has extended immediate assistance to students affected by a recent fire in Kampung Bahagia, Sandakan, through its 'Menyantuni Pelajar Mangsa Kebakaran' programme organised by the Student Affairs Department (JHEP).

Under the initiative, four affected students each received RM500 and food baskets to help ease their burden and meet essential needs.

The recipients were Putri Qazreena Abdul Aziz and Abdul Fadzri Abdul Zaki from the Faculty of Business, Economics and Accountancy, Suhana Abdul Han from the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities and Nur Azrina Aina Arif from the Faculty of Tropical Forestry.

UMS vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Kasim Mansor said the university remains committed to safeguarding student welfare, particularly in times of disaster.

"UMS will continue to play its key role as a caring and responsive institution by providing immediate assistance as well as ongoing support to affected students, so they can continue their studies without disruption," he said.

Kasim added that the



Kasim (fourth right) presents the financial aid and food baskets to affected students.

programme also aimed to provide moral and emotional support while identifying further needs for follow-up aid.

Meanwhile, Suhana recounted that the fire broke out at around 1am but was only discovered an hour later after a housemate alerted her upon seeing a livestream on TikTok.

"I immediately contacted my father in the village and was informed that our house had been completely destroyed.

"However, I am grateful that all family members are safe, including our important documents," she said, adding that her family is currently staying at a temporary evacuation centre (PPS).

Qazreena said she rushed back to Sandakan to be with her family after the incident.

"I am thankful that everyone is safe and we are now placed at a temporary evacuation centre at the Batu Sapi People's Housing

Programme.

"The moral support from friends and the donation provided have helped me remain strong and focused on my studies," she said.

The programme also served as a platform to strengthen ties between university management and students through a compassionate outreach approach, reflecting UMS' ongoing commitment to the well-being of its community.