

UMS discussion on generating revenue

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KOTA KINABALU: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) held a discussion on Generating Revenue of Public Higher Learning Institution with Prof. Nor Azazi Zakaria of Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) at the university's campus here, Monday.

The discussion, which included a Q&A session and a talk by Azazi, was conducted in response to the call made by Minister of Education Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin who earlier this month called for a financial sustainability in public higher learning institutions.

"The government is encouraging each university to spend according to its plans and does not want the institutions to spend outside of what is already allocated for them.

"This is because the government source of income is increasingly limited and expenses for each university is increasing every year," said UMS Vice-Chancellor Datuk Mohd Harun Abdullah in his welcoming speech.

Harun hoped each department in the university would use the knowledge gained during the discussion to devise income generating plans so that each would reach 30 per cent income to sustain the university by year 2020.

"Income generation is an important agenda during my tenure and I would like to see the university's Income Generation Policy continue to be expanded and refined so that each department could play important roles in generating income through regulations and guidelines already in place.

"I also would like to see that each department has its own trust fund used exclusively to generate income so that this matter can be managed by themselves and regulated by the Treasury.

"We have to act because the guidelines are there and I want to avoid things like 'no action but talk only'," he said.

Harun reiterated that income generation is not only making money but also saving money.

"Saving money could save the university millions of ringgit and can be used for more important matters," he said, adding that each department should weigh all decisions that would involve money before executing them.

Azazi, who was especially flown in from USM, shared his experience and knowledge on how universities generate income out of nothing or with very little resource.



The UMS group led by Harun (3rd from right) with Titec Executive Vice President Professor Kiyoshi Okada (third from left).