

# Review programs offered at UMS Sandakan – MP

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**SANDAKAN:** Sandakan Member of Parliament Vivian Wong Shir Yee has urged the Ministry of Education (MoE) to look for suitable programmes especially for local students to enable them to pursue their studies at the Universiti Malaysia Sabah's Sustainable Agriculture Faculty here.

She said she was aware that the faculty, located at the Sandakan Education Hub here, currently only offered three programmes, namely crop production, horticulture and landscaping, and livestock production, that received lukewarm response among local students.

"These programmes don't meet the needs or not the students' top choices and it is understood to have caused students from Sandakan to further their studies elsewhere after completing their secondary school education," she said in a statement here



Vivian

yesterday.

Wong said she had raised the matter to Deputy Education Minister Teo Nie Ching during at a meeting at the Parliament recently.

She also informed Teo about the issue of migration of local

Sabahans to other places to further their studies and find employment.

"In response, the Deputy Education Minister said that presently a total of 398 students are studying for bachelor's degree, master's degree and doctorate degree at UMS's Sandakan campus.

"MoE is also concerned about the issues (in Sandakan) and will consider my recommendations carefully to meet the needs of the people," she said.

She also believed if the MoE or the university concerned were to offer top choices courses, problems such as low enrollment would be resolved.

UMS established the Sustainable Agriculture Faculty at the Sandakan Education Hub in 2006 which is able to accommodate up to 1,000 students at any one time. – Bernama

