

# Food Bank benefits 433 in UMS for a start

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Up to 3,082 public university (IPTA) students nationwide have benefited from the Food Bank Siswa programme since the initiative began in February this year.

Minister of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs (KPDNHEP) Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the Ministry targets 20 more IPTAs for the project.

“Our final target for the Food Bank Siswa programme across IPTA by the end of this year, is that 20,000 students benefit from it.

“Each campus starts with a different number of recipients (students). For example, University Malaysia Sabah (UMS) began with 433 recipients, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM) with 800, Universiti Putra Malaysia with 500 and University Malaya with 1,000.

“The number of recipients would then increase as the programme expands. Hence, we target a total of 20,000 student recipients nationwide by the end of the year,” he said, during a press conference following the launch of Food Bank Siswa at the UMS Faculty of Food Science and Nutrition.

Saifuddin said 430 contributors had committed to KPDNHEP



Saifuddin (second left) launching the Food Bank Siswa programme at UMS. Also seen is Kamarudin (left).

in conjunction with Food Bank, comprising renowned hypermarkets and supermarkets. Meanwhile, the programme would be executed by UMS leadership, based on the Food Pantry and Central Kitchen concept.

“This programme would inadvertently encourage entrepreneurial qualities among students, as well as inculcate organisational skills,” he added.

Through the Food Bank Siswa

programme, approximately 433 students from the B40 group stand to benefit, according to UMS Vice Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin. He hoped the initiative would ease the burden of those students as well as give them a better learning experience at the university.

During the event, Maybank Islamic also contributed RM60,000 to go towards under privileged students in UMS.