

Nurlaila presenting a laptop to one of the students.



# UMS allocates RM1.25m in aid of undergrads

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**KOTA KINABALU:** Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) allocated about RM1.25 million in data plan and laptop assistance to help undergraduates in the B40 group to go through the online teaching and learning process more smoothly.

UMS Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr Taufiq Yap said the allocation involves RM255,420 Data Plan Assistance which will benefit 1,928 students.

While, RM1 million for laptop assistance has been allocated to 714 eligible B40 students, comprising 619 from Sabah, 37 from Sarawak and 58 from Peninsular Malaysia. The allocation for this is obtained from the UMS Student Welfare Trust Fund.

"For data plan assistance, students have received the assistance in stages since Dec 8.

"The assistance is one of the six initia-

tives under UMS Prihatin for all UMS students through the Department of Affairs as a commitment by UMS in emphasising student welfare," he said.

He said this while delivering his welcome speech in conjunction with the opening ceremony of the Submission of Data and Laptop Plan 2020. Also present was UMS Board Member and Chairperson of the Student Welfare Committee, Datin Nurlaila Said.

According to Taufiq, for laptops, selected students will receive a laptop amounting to RM1,400 which will be delivered directly to the student through the principal after the student completes the acceptance form and agreement letter.

Apart from that, he said UMS also spent RM20,000 for Food Bank assistance to students. This initiative also received contributions from non-governmental organisa-

tions and UMS strategic partners.

Another benefit received is the exemption of residential college fees with a total allocation of RM1,991,592 involving 8,792 students.

In addition, through the UMS Prihatin initiative, students get back RM51 tuition fees for Semester 1, Academic session 2020/2021.

"I hope that the assistance can ease the burden of those really in need," he said.

Some 12 students were presented with the laptop assistance and data plan during the ceremony.

Also present were UMS Deputy Vice Chancellor (Student and Alumni Affairs) Associate Prof Dr Raman Noordin; UMS Treasurer, Zallifah Shadan; UMS Chief Librarian, Zawawi Tiyunin; and Head of Student Affairs Department, Kamisah Husin.