

2024 Budget: People who previously refrained from entering universities due to commitment now will be motivated to further studies

By **Mandy Leong** - October 15, 2023 @ 2:29pm



Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) lauded a decision by the government during the 2024 Budget to cap university registration fees at RM1,500. FILE PIC

KUALA LUMPUR: Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) lauded a decision by the government during the 2024 Budget to cap university registration fees at RM1,500.

Its vice chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Ahmad Farhan Mohd Sadullah said this initiative would provide opportunities for underprivileged students to pursue their tertiary education.

"We welcomed the announcement that universities must not to bar students who cannot afford registration fees from enrolling or sitting for examinations.

"Individuals who may have previously refrained from entering university due to a need to support their families and those among the rural poor will have renewed motivation to go for academic pursuits," he said in statement on Saturday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim announced a cap on admission fees for public universities at RM1,500 starting in January 2024 during his presentation of the 2024 Budget on Friday.

Farhan said UPM fully supports the government's wish to strengthen the wellbeing of university students. He said the varsity has been implementing various measures to uphold students' welfare for a long time.

"UPM, through the student welfare division, also provides various assistance to underprivileged students. The B40 group is eligible for support through the student welfare fund via waqf, zakat, and other endowments to ease their burden.

"UPM has also held the 'Dermasiswa Sulong Programme' as proposed by the Higher Education Ministry to financially support the first-generation of students coming from B40 families pursuing higher education at universities."

Farhan agreed with the idea that university fees should be regulated with an aim of improving the welfare of the students.

He also welcomed the RM1 million allocation to each public university for community rehabilitation programmes for persons with disabilities (PwD) because it would increase the number of disabled students enrolling in universities.

"UPM has established a robust framework to support the people with disability community, such as the Inclusive PwD Campus Implementation Guidelines, special allowances for the PwD, additional learning hours, and strong support for the PwD Student Association for disabled student empowerment.

"Additionally, UPM continuously upgrades facilities for the disabled on campus," he said.