

## UMS plans new learning centre in Semporna, pending approval

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Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambrzy Abdul Kadir says the proposal by Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) to have a new learning centre in Semporna through its Flexible Education Centre is still under discussion with other relevant agencies, including the Economy Ministry. - Bernama pic

KUALA LUMPUR: Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) has proposed the development of a new learning centre in Semporna through its Flexible Education Centre.

However, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Zambrzy Abdul Kadir said that the proposal was still under discussion with the Higher Education Ministry and other relevant agencies, including the Economy Ministry.

"Regarding the proposal to establish a public institution of higher learning (IPTA) in the Semporna parliamentary constituency, UMS has outlined plans to set up a new learning centre under its Flexible Education Centre," he said during his winding-up speech on the 2025 Supply Bill in Dewan Rakyat today.

He said that the programmes to be offered at the proposed centre would include tourism management and aquaculture.

"If there is a demand for programmes related to food security, food agriculture, and similar fields, these will also be considered," he added.

Zambry also assured that the ministry was committed to expanding access to education through the establishment of IPTAs, which included public universities, polytechnics, and community colleges.

He outlined seven key factors that must be thoroughly examined before establishing a new IPTA.

These include assessing the demand for education, balancing student and community needs with the local population size, and evaluating the availability of qualified experts in relevant fields.

"Other critical factors include the feasibility of providing and maintaining infrastructure, financial sustainability, and ensuring the programmes offered align with current needs and are distinct from existing IPTAs. The potential for delivering these programmes online is also an important consideration," he added.