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NICE TO MEET YOU: Khaled greets and chats with a UNIMAS student.

Fair allocation likely for education in Budget '13

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The government is expected to continue its emphasis on the development of human capital in the upcoming Budget 2013.

Without disclosing any details, Minister of Higher Education Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin yesterday said he believed that more good news could be expected for the education sector as the government was aware of the importance of human capital for the advancement of Malaysia.

"We have to wait for what will be announced in the Budget (2013), but I believe the government will allocate a significant amount to the education sector whether it is at the lower or higher level," he told reporters after the meet the new students' programme at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (UNIMAS) here.

He pointed out that the establishing of 20 public universities in Malaysia, from only one public university after Independence, was solid proof of the determination of the government to develop the higher education sector.

The increased number of higher learning institutions was to ensure higher education was not "exclusive in nature" but "to provide an equal opportunity to all qualified and excellent students", he added.

To a question, Khaled said the ministry and public universities would not simply approve the transfer application of students, for instance, a request of a Peninsular Malaysian student, who was offered a place at a university in East Malaysia, to be transferred to a university in the peninsula.

He explained that if such request was granted easily, it would have a negative impact to the effort of the government to enhance the integration between different states.

"I would like to stress that the group – those who are from the peninsula and offered a place to study in Sarawak and Sabah and those from Sarawak and Sabah who are offered a place to study in the peninsula – plays a vital role in determining the future of Malaysia," he said.

"Because of the exposure and experience, they could gain a better understanding of the differences, enhance a good relationship as well as build a good bonding between the people, which is essential in ensuring Malaysia will continue to be a united society."

Khaled said campus election would be held on Sept 20 and 25 respectively. "We encourage the campus election because it is a way for students to understand the meaning and process of democracy."

UNIMAS was the sixth public university Khaled visited in conjunction with the enrolment for the 2012/2013 session. UNIMAS had registered the highest number of new students among the public universities, totalling at 4,100 where 60 per cent were non-Sarawkians.

Khaled said in his speech earlier on that the percentage showed that UNIMAS was receiving students from outside the state well.

Attributing the success to the good performance of UNIMAS, he said he received no appeal from Peninsula students, who were offered a place in UNIMAS, to transfer out from the university.

A total of 38,000 students were offered places to further their studies at the 20 public universities, he said, adding that the government would commit to improve the infrastructure of the higher learning institutions.

"At the same time, we will ensure that every course is relevant and able to meet the demand of the country in this globalisation era.

"Apart from that, we will not compromise on the qualification of lecturers.

"All these are to ensure that the public universities could help to produce human capital who are not only equipped with knowledge and skills but also good in terms of moral and ethics."

However, undergraduates must have their own initiative to search for knowledge outside the classroom by participating in co-curricular activities and alike rather than depending on lectures alone, said Khaled.

He also advised the new students not go too deep into politics as their priority was still in the academics.

The programme also saw the opening of the Student Pavilion of UNIMAS by Khaled. The new complex was aimed to provide a space for the students to carry out activities among themselves.

Among those present was UNIMAS vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Khairuddin Ab Hamid.

Source : [theborneopost](#)