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# PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

## **Love the country and appreciate the value of true**

It is essential for Malaysians to have the spirit of the truest patriotism, one who loves the country and will do what is right, based on perception, belief or faith, in order to defend the nation.

In the context of Malaysia having a multi-racial society, it is very important for the people to have a sense of patriotism and be loyal to the country.

It is equally important too for us to understand the country's administration system, have a sense of togetherness, be loyal to the leader and the royal institution, be a disciplined citizen and uphold the country's good name.

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According to former Inspector General of Police, Tan Sri Musa Hassan, if the people loved their country, it will help to increase the country's productivity by educating their children to be the best kind of citizens and in the process, help to create a sense of belonging that will make them patriotic.

"Patriotism lives with life-long dedication and sacrifice for the country. It can create a sense of belonging that will make them patriotic."

"We want to see the people remained united and respectful of one another, and live in peace," he said.

He added that the celebration of the country's independence was held every year and the symbolic gesture of waving the flag and singing patriotic songs but this did not necessarily translated into having the spirit of patriotism.

"We need to be bold when expressing opinions or contributing ideas, and be sincere so it will lead to good things."

"Also, in our efforts to gain a deeper understanding on the meaning of independence, it demands one to learn from our forefathers."

According to International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies (IAIS) Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil, the Federal Constitution was a document that balanced the position of the Bumiputras and other ethnic groups.

"The secret is compromise - that is the give and take approach, free from ideology and religious extremism. This is what those who drawn up the Constitution."

"Our forefathers want each individual in Malaysia to be able to enjoy a life of peace, calm and tranquillity."

"They want to see all races from various religious and ethnic backgrounds to each have their pieces of the pie."

"Acceptance of the social contract and high tolerance by the three biggest ethnics as well as other ethnics from the togetherness approach that has been long inherent in the Federal Constitution," he added.

Tan Sri Musa Hassan and Associate Professor Dr. Mohamed Azam Mohamed Adil were invited to speak at the 'Muzakarah Cendekiawan Mulia' (Talks by Distinguished Scholars) organised by the Office of the Vice-Chancellor (PAKAD).

The programme titled, '*Malaysia Baharu: Patriotisme Tulen atau Retorik Politik?*' (The New Malaysia: Patriotism or Political Rhetoric?) was moderated by Dr. Munira Abdul Razak, a lecturer at the Centre of Human Sciences.

It was held at Astaka Hall, UMP Gambang Campus on August 28, 2019.

Also present were UMP Vice-Chancellor, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff and Pahang Deputy Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Dr. Ahmad Basri.

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## **Personal approach to communities of Natives help boosts pursue patriotism**

In line with the vision to promote 'School for the Community' and 'University for the Society', the MoE will undertake a more personal approach to propagate information about opportunities in pursuit of higher and based on the former's three core values and embedded culture – love, happiness and mutual respect.

The MoE believes education is the master key to upgrade knowledge and reinforce self-esteem among the more meek and introverted – distancing themselves from outright healthy competition with other ethnicities.

Moving forward with such belief, departments under the purview of the MoE – namely Department of Education, Department of Education – together with the Department of Natives Development (JAKOA) and Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) will synergistic collaboration to conduct a programme called '*Program Sentuhan Kasih@JPT 2019 Bersama*' to enhance the standard of education level among the Natives in Malaysia, specifically in the district of Pekan, Pahang.

Held at the Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan (SMK) Lepar in Pekan on August 22, 2019, the programme was officiated by Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar Wan Yusoff.

Also in attendance at the event were JPT Director of Enrollment into Public Institutions of Higher Learning, Mohd Razali Mustafar; and SMK Lepar Headmaster, Mohd Shuhaimi Abdul Karim.

According to Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar, underlining such belief, UMP is ever committed to ensure adequate opportunities for qualified children of the Natives to pursue their higher education at both diploma and degree levels.

"This effort is fully supported by the State Department of Education as well as the federal government agencies," he said.

"The community of Natives should be given equal opportunity and access to higher education as any other community. Their academic potential should be nourished and polished," emphasized the Vice-Chancellor in his official address.

"This *Sentuhan Kasih* programme is the MoE's fifth collaboration with JAKOA, with the objective of enhancing the academic leaders and children of the Natives," he highlighted.

"Manifesting from such familiarity and strong bond of communications, MoE – via IPTA Enrolment Division – will facilitate the passage into local public institutions of higher learning for selected categories of qualified students, such as scholastic athletes and those from the B40 income group," Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar explained.

"These selected categories of university candidates no longer have to compete with the mainstream applicants. They only have to fulfil certain general conditions and special qualifying prerequisites set by the higher learning institutions accordingly," he continued.

Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar said for the 2019/2020 academic session, statistics showed some 401 out of 420 Natives students who passed the *Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia* (SPM), were offered placements at public universities across the country.

"Meanwhile, the Natives students who sat for the *Sijil Tinggi Pelajaran Malaysia* (STPM), or underwent matriculation examination, have successfully made it into public universities – a 100% accomplishment of the target set."

Commemorating the success of the *Sentuhan Kasih@JPT 2019* programme, Professor Ir. Dr. Wan Azhar presented a scholarship to Roni Chandan Kumar Dhar, 20, from Runchang Pekan, who was accompanied by her mother, Nab Hemalatha. Roni's Degree in Project Management and her studies is slated to commence on September 2, 2019.

Meanwhile, JPT Director Wahi said one of the main objectives of the *Sentuhan Kasih* programme, is to enhance the academic prerequisites, application methods and qualifying intake assessment to the Natives.

"In addition, this programme is the right platform to highlight existing and new study courses offered at public colleges and public institutions of vocational training for the 2020/2021 academic session," he said, adding that the Programme, Part-Time Study Programme and Short Courses available.

At the *Sentuhan Kasih* programme, Wahi said the Natives would also have access to information on Lifelong Learning conducted in a completely different manner when compared to formal learning.

"For instance, if a working candidate would like to pursue the PSH programme, he would be briefed on the APEL or APEL, introduced by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA).

"Simply put, APEL enables individuals who have work experience but lack of formal academic qualifications to study at public universities and public institutions," he said.

Current year statistics show that 9,688 Natives children are between the age of six and 12, while 4,900 Natives aged 13 to 17 years old. In addition, 35,736 Natives in Pahang are categorized as youth aged between 15 and 40 years old.

To date, about 1,090 Natives undergraduates are pursuing various fields of studies at public universities and polytechnics in the state. About 1,000 Natives are currently pursuing their tertiary studies, including Master's and Doctorate, at universities abroad.

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