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PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

UMP goes the extra mile to assist new undergraduate

Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently went the extra mile to help new undergraduate, Amrina Rusyad Gambang, after she was offered to enroll for a Bachelor's Degree in Project Management at the university for

Relating the benevolence experience, Amrina's mother, Rohana Rashid, 52, said she was elated when her tertiary studies at UMP, but became worried of the cost she had to bear to send her over.

Being a single mother from Kampung Singkir Genting in Merbok, Kedah, Rohana said it had never crossed her mind to seek help from anyone else, as she was the recipient of UMP's extraordinary goodwill assistance – in arranging the logistics for her daughter to travel alone to the university.

She had initially thought of seeking help from Amrina's uncle to drive them to the university in time for the new semester, but the uncle was unable to do so.

But, just a few days before the registration, Rohana was pleasantly surprised by a call from UMP, with arrangements to come fetch and drive the whole family to the university.

According to Rohana, she couldn't believe her luck, and was even skeptical that a public institution of higher learning would provide such assistance.

"We've all heard of financial assistance provided by universities for academically outstanding students, but the transportation to the campus for registration is truly extraordinary," she exclaimed.

"In fact, I had to ask around, with relatives and neighbours, if they've heard of such provision. And all reacted with disbelief at the offer of such assistance," Rohana remarked.

But to her disbelief, come registration day on Saturday (date here), 2019, UMP staff appeared at Rohana's home to assist with the family's travel to the university.

From that memorable moment, her skepticism turned into an emotional experience, having been inspired by the university's gesture.

Rohana felt ever more touched, when UMP did not only provide transportation from her home in Merbok to the university, but also arranged for the family to stay in a guest house on campus, further to accommodate the family at the university's guest residence, complete with in-house meals throughout the duration of the registration.

"My heartfelt gratitude to UMP for extending a helping hand and all the assistance. For a *Nasi Lemak* seller like myself, the cost of the food and drink for the whole family to travel to the university and stay there for a few days itself would have cost the university more than RM500 – that is a substantially significant amount to spare," Rohana said.

Having been encouraged by such benevolence experience, Rohana strongly advised Amrina to study and work hard.

Concurring with her mother, Amrina said she was deeply touched by UMP's display of extraordinary compassion and care.

Together with 69 other new undergraduates, Amrina was also a recipient of the university's MyGift Initiative, which offers cash assistance to students from low-income families. She was one of the 100 students to enrol in the 2019/2020 Bachelor's Degree enrolment on September 2, 2019.

Each recipient gets RM1,000 cash assistance from the Bank Rakyat Foundation's Fund on Tertiary Education.

PAKAD holds workshop to help SPM students master SPM English

Lecturers from the Academic Association (PAKAD) of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) recently held an examination this year.

Dubbed the 'CSR Akademik PAKAD 2019', the programme also aimed to boost students' comprehension in Physics, Chemistry and Biology, as well as Mathematics.

Held for two consecutive days on August 6 and 7 at the university's Gambang Campus, the corporate social responsibility programme involved 10 UMP lecturers and 11 postgraduate students mentor 33 students under the supervision of 12 teachers from SMKAP.

According to PAKAD President, Mohd Hairul Ab Rahim, such CSR programme was conducted in line with the university's vision to have academic staff to be more proactive in community services.

"We also hope such programme will help establish a cordial working relationship between UMP academic staff and students, as well as facilitate the sharing and transferring of knowledge and expertise in the teaching and learning of science-based subject matter," he said.

Programme Director, Associate Professor Dr. Fatmawati Adam of the Faculty of Chemical & Process Engineering said that the students will benefit from the programme as they will be exposed to the practical application of the concepts of Chemistry in a real-world laboratory.

"Furthermore, these students will get to experience campus life with an overnight stay at the university residence."

One of the academic staff-participants, Dean of Centre of Science Mathematics, Associate Professor Dr. Hisham Hisham, said that the mentors came up with several creative activities, including games and techniques, to inculcate interest in the potentially difficult four subject matters.

"We had Mathematical games as well as demonstrations on the Laws of Ohm and Latent Heat to illustrate the concepts of conductance, and thermodynamics, respectively," exuded the Associate Professor.

Meanwhile, SMKAP Headmaster, Ustaz Abdul Rahim Mohamad, extended his gratitude and appreciated the contributions, which have significantly helped instill interest in the secondary school students to comprehend the SPM examination subjects.

The 'CSR Akademik PAKAD 2019' programme also saw the students attending a motivational workshop on the 'Importance of Quranic Teachings (Sunnatullah)', conducted by Ustaz Ahmad Irfan Ikmal Hisham from UMP's Centre of Human Resource Development.

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