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PEKAN REVIEW

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Bridging Universiti Malaysia Pahang to the world community

UMP students remain calm on campus

Translation by: DR. ROZAIMI ABU SAMAH, FACULTY OF CHEMICAL AND PROCESS ENGINEERING T

The safety and wellbeing of nearly 1,000 students of Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) in UMP Pekan have been the priority of the university.

Cafeteria and retail outlets that operate from 7.00 a.m. until 7.00 p.m. as well as the internet facilities have been closed during the Movement Control Order (MCO).

According to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni), Professor Dato' Dr. Yuserrie Zairi, the university has ensured the safety of students during the MCO.

“Dry food are also distributed through Campus Pantry, along with the donation from outsiders.

“The students are also supplied with basic necessities such as soap and shampoo for self-hygiene.

“The MCO forbids students to gather, and they are regularly reminded to always practise social distancing,

“The students are free to do any activities on the campus, and the Student Affairs and Alumni Department such as short video competition and e-sports,” he said.

He expects parents and families to not worry about their children as long as they remain within the campus.

“The university ensures the students to adhere to the rules and guidelines as well as comply to the standard UMP.

“Those who show symptoms can proceed to the University Health Centre (PKU) that opens daily, and our staff ensure the safety and movement of the students.

“Apart from that, residential colleges are cleaned daily to keep the hygiene at its best level,” he said.

He added that his team was grateful for the donation from the external parties, including from Paya B. Abdullah, Sabah Foundation, NGOs, Food Hunger, and the Faculty of Chemical and Process Engineering provide meals for on- and off-campus students.

“In safeguarding the safety and wellbeing of the on-campus UMP associates, contributors and off-campus guardhouse as well as keep the social distance in compliance with the MCO within the campus,” he said.

Faculty of Computing student Aishah Umairah Sutrisno Karsono Sadium from Kampar, Perak, was initially in a situation.

The anxiety towards the Covid-19 outbreak made her stay within campus even though most students went home on break.

She mentioned that her free time is filled with reading books, tidying room, or improve her art skills.

“So far, all the facilities are sufficient, and students residing in the campus have no problems for food access as usual,” she said.

Hailing from Sabah, Mohd Asraf Andman, 23, from the Department of Electrical Engineering, Engineering Faculty, UMP, said he is calm on the campus.

“We have no worries about food because we receive assistance from the Sabah State Government through the Sabah State Government in Kuala Lumpur.

“UMP also provides food through Food Kit.

“Besides studying, most times are used for surfing the internet and playing online games,” he said.

He practises social distancing, regularly washes his hands, and puts on a face mask to avoid the infection on campus.

“Students should maintain their wellbeing and drink mineral or plain water in such hot weather.

Similarly, another Sabahan, Mohammad Nur Syukri Mohammad Zandri, 22, from the same department, with most of his friends already returned to their villages for the semester break.

However, he decided to stay on the campus after contemplating the risk of going home during this period.

“Among other things, I read books and watch movies, and most importantly, I get enough sleep and am happy while being grateful to receive help from the Sabah State Government and UMP.

He informed his parents not to be worried as UMP is safe and food is sufficient.

He also advises UMP students to take care of their wellbeing and cleanliness and do what is beneficial during this period.

‘Mom and Dad’ for students in Residential Colleges

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In addition to the sacrifice of health and safety officers to go on duty as frontliners during the Movement Control Order (MCO) outbreak, the role of principals and fellows of residential colleges is also crucial in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of students on campus.

According to the Principal of Residential College 3 (KK3), Rosjuliana Hidayu Rosli, she must ensure the best condition during the MCO.

“During this period, all the principals must remain updated with the information to be shared with the students and must be obeyed, including their personal hygiene.

“Besides that, hygienic food preparation and adequate food supply are also guaranteed.

“Food distribution is scheduled and coordinated in respective residential colleges to minimise students’ movement.

At the same time, university management also provides basic necessities to the students.

“Since the first day of the MCO, all principals and fellows are prepared to make sure students remain calm and patient.

“We use social media such as WhatsApp to communicate and share information with the students.

“The assistance also reaches the students from Sabah that live off campus, and we try to assist them so that they can return to their homes.

“I treat them as my daughters as their parents have entrusted us to care for them.

“Daily night patrol is done to ensure their safety. “I can see them smile, calm and patient during this difficult period.”

She is grateful to have a team with great synergy in task coordination and execution so they can balance the

Meanwhile, the Principal of Residential College 4 (KK4), Nasrul Salim Pakheri, said that nearly 80 male stu

Health screening is conducted daily by checking their body temperature while taking food.

“This procedure is necessary to monitor their wellbeing and curb the outbreak.

“Besides the on-campus students, we are also concerned with the wellbeing of those who reside off campus

“Students do not have to worry about their daily necessities because there are shops on the campus for the scheduled operation time,” he said.

“However, if the items are out of stock and it is urgent, the staff will help to buy for them.”

He always advises students to concern about health and cleanliness as well as to capitalise on the free time

Currently, 1,005 students are receiving free food, including additional needs in UMP Campus Pantry during 2020.

Students can also get online counselling guidance or contact the selected counsellor through *e-Kaunseling*

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