



Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail (second from right) giving away a goodie bag to Muhammad Izzat Amran Ibrahim at the launch of the Food Bank Siswa programme at Universiti Sains Malaysia, George Town, yesterday. PIC BY DANIAL SAAD

FOOD BANK SISWA

# 'PETAI BOY' WANTS TO HELP OTHERS

Izzat volunteers in govt food programme to aid other needy students

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**M**UHAMMAD Izzat Amran Ibrahim received overwhelming encouragement when news about him having to postpone his studies went

viral last month.

Now the "Petai Boy", 20, wants to help others in need.

A week after enrolling at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) to pursue his degree, he is a volunteer in Food Bank Siswa, an initiative to assist students from the low income group. He is a beneficiary of the initiative.

"I am not from a wealthy family. One way of helping others is by becoming a volunteer. Even though I am just carrying the items, I still feel that it is my responsibility to help others when they are in need.

"People helped me without hesitation. Now I must do something on my end," said Izzat after the programme launch at the main campus here yesterday.

His story about having to sell

"petai" (bitter beans) to raise money to further his studies, and his inability to save enough in time for the registration, went viral two weeks ago.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail launched the Food Bank Siswa yesterday.

He said 4,000 undergraduates from public universities would benefit from the programme launched in April.

Saifuddin said the programme would be expanded to private institutions, polytechnics and Institutes of Teacher Education with priority given to students from the low income group.

"We do not want bureaucracy in this. No need to get validations since this is charity," he said.

USM is the 12th government institution to introduce the programme where 350 students will benefit from this.