

Petai Boy now volunteer for USM's Food Bank Siswa



Twenty-year old Muhammad Izzat Amran Ibrahim received overwhelming encouragement when news that his studies may be postponed went viral last month. - NSTP/DANIAL SAAD

By Mohamed B - September 8, 2019 @ 4:31pm

GEORGE TOWN: Twenty-year old Muhammad Izzat Amran Ibrahim received overwhelming encouragement when news that his studies may be postponed went viral last month.

Now the Petai Boy wants to help others in need.

Barely a week after enrolling at Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) for his degree, he is now a volunteer for the Food Bank Siswa - an initiative to assist students from lower income group families. He is also a recipient of the initiative.

"I am not from a wealthy family, so one way for me to help others would be through such programmes and become a volunteer.

"I feel it is my responsibility to help others when they are in need. People helped me without any hesitation. Now I must do something as well," he said when met after the launching of the programme at USM campus here today.

His story went viral on social media last week, when it was reported that he had to sell 'petai' (bitter beans) to raise money to further his studies but could not save enough in time for the registration.

Earlier today, Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail officiated the Food Bank Siswa.

He said some 4,000 public sector university undergraduate would benefit from the programme which was launched in April.

He said the programme would be expanded to private institutions, polytechnics and Institute of Teacher Education (IPG) with priority being given to students from the lower income group families.

“We do not want too much of bureaucracy in this, no need to get validations since this is an act of charity,” he added.

USM is the 12th government institution to introduce the programme where 350 students are expected to benefit.

