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Improving the quality of education

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THE RM14.5 billion set aside for the Higher Education Ministry under the 2022 Budget will improve the quality of education besides benefiting young graduates and the underprivileged.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad said the allocation would help the ministry and its agencies implement higher education development programmes and strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

"The ministry welcomes and is very grateful for the government's concern about the development of higher education in the country, especially in channelling funds to intensify research and development," she said yesterday.

The RM14.5 billion allocation covers the ministry's operating expenditure amounting to RM11.5 billion and development expenditure amounting to RM3 billion.

Noraini said there were 15 budget initiatives to help graduates and the ministry.

She said they included PerantiSiswa Keluarga Malaysia, which would provide a tablet device to each of the 600,000 students in higher learning institutions from 840 households.

She said TVET would be strengthened with the RM6.6 billion funding, which would also benefit various ministries and agencies.

"An additional RM200 million will go towards implementing joint program-



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DATUK SERI DR NORAINI AHMAD
Higher Education Minister

mes with industries."

The Malaysian Research and Education Network would receive RM67 million to upgrade its access network in all higher learning institutions from 500Mbps to 10Gbps.

Noraini said a National Higher Education Fund Corporation loan repayment discount would be offered from Nov 1 to April 30, which would benefit 1.67 million borrowers.



The budget allocation will enable the ministry to intensify research and development. FILE PIC

"There will be a 15 per cent discount for full settlement of an outstanding loan, 12 per cent discount for payment of at least 50 per cent of the outstanding balance in one payment and 10 per cent discount for repayment through scheduled salary deduction or direct debit."

She said the government agreed to extend double tax deduction to companies offering scholarships to tertiary students and this initiative had been expanded to all fields of study.

She said the ministry would introduce the e-Start Programme to provide a one-off credit of RM150 into the e-wallets of youths aged 18 to 20, including full-time students at higher learning institutions.

"The programme involves an allocation of RM300 million and is expected to help more than two million youths buy useful items such as books and learning equipment."

"In addition, RM6.6 billion will be provided for education loans, upgrading certificate programmes to diplomas, as well as producing professionals among Bumiputeras in the fields of medicine, engineering and finance under Mara (Majlis Amanah Rakyat), UiTM (Universiti Teknologi Mara) and Yayasan Peneraju."

"The government encourages the private sector to implement an initiative to pay an allowance of RM900 to students undergoing industrial training programmes."

"There will also be an extension on tax incentives for the Structured Industrial Training Programme until 2025, which has also been extended to students at the master's degree, professional certificate and Malaysian Skills Certificate Level 1 and 2."

Noraini said the government would provide an incentive of RM900 a month for six months to employers who hire school-leavers and graduates aged 18 to 30.

She welcomed the RM423 million allocation under the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry and the Higher Education Ministry to intensify research and development in line with the development of science and technology.

"Allocations include RM295 million to public universities to play a larger role in the research and innovation ecosystem, as well as encourage collaboration with industries."

The government will also expand mobile clinic services to university teaching hospitals to increase access to screening and health education in focus areas.

HIGHER EDUCATION
MINISTRY
2022 BUDGET
ALLOCATION



RM14.5 billion

OPERATING
EXPENDITURE



RM11.5 billion

DEVELOPMENT
EXPENDITURE



RM3 billion



A researcher at the Universiti Malaysia Sarawak Malaria Research Centre. PIC COURTESY OF HIGHER EDUCATION MINISTRY



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SUMMARIES

THE RM14.5 billion set aside for the Higher Education Ministry under the 2022 Budget will improve the quality of education besides benefiting young graduates and the underprivileged.Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad said the allocation would help the ministry and its agencies implement higher education development programmes and strengthen Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).