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"UUM : UNIVERSITI PENGURUSAN TERKEMUKA"
(THE EMINENT MANAGEMENT UNIVERSITY)

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HIGHER EDUCATION DISCOURSE PROGRAMME CLARIFIES ISSUES AND HIGHLIGHTS CHALLENGES CONFRONTING PTPTN



UUM ONLINE: The Higher Education Discourse Programme, PenDaPaT 2018 PTPTN: Between Access, Equity and Sustainability discussed the issues and challenges of higher

education funding confronting the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) at the Seminar A Hall, UUM Convention Centre recently.

The intellectual discourse programme was organized by the Higher Education Research and Development Organization (PenDaPaT) in collaboration with Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) and National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) and Berita Harian.

According to the Chairperson of PenDaPaT, Prof. Dato' Dr. Norzaini Azman, PenDaPaT is a professional body as well as an NGO organization that aims to provide support, advice and suggestions on the policies and practices of higher education in the country.

"In the era of the new government, PenDaPaT provides input to the new policy by submitting several proposals such as pledging to abolish AUKU, strengthening PTPTN's sustainability, restoring the ecosystems and the academic culture back to the original state that is based on excellence.

"Revaluation of academic services scheme, balancing university ranking system with academic ethics, ensuring the quality of postgraduates and restoring the role of academics," she said.

Meanwhile, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic and International), Prof. Dr. Yusnidah Ibrahim said that the topics discussed are very important because the efficient and sustainable funding system of higher education will guarantee opportunities for the next generation.

According to her, since the inception of PTPTN, more than 2.8 million borrowers have benefited from over MYR50 billion in loans.

"However, PTPTN now faces the problem of repayment of loans by borrowers. This of course affects the ability of PTPTN to provide loans to new borrowers.

"If this problem is left unresolved, chances are PTPTN will be paralyzed and can no longer function as loan provider to millions of needy students," she said.

The discourse programme became a platform for the public especially students to understand more about PTPTN in terms of funding, roles and methods for improvement of existing systems.

Among the issues discussed were: Who should finance higher education? What is the best way to finance education? What is the best way to ensure that loan repayment is not burdensome?

The issues which were discussed in depth also included the recent repayment mechanisms revised within the Budget of 2019, i.e. repayments based on percentage to income or better known as Income Contingent Loan or ICL.

UUM lecturer who is also the Deputy Chairman of PenDaPaT, Prof. Dr. Rosna Awang Hashim was the moderator of the programme. The discourse panel comprised Deputy Chief Executive, Policy and Operation of PTPTN, Mdm. Mastura Mohd Khalid; Founder cum Director of Bait Al-Amanah, Dr. Abdul Razak Ahmad; lecturer at UUM COB School of Economics, Finance and Banking, Prof. Dr. Russayani Ismail as well as Head of Human Resources, Bank Islam Malaysia Berhad, Mr. Razman Ismail.

In conjunction with the discourse, PTPTN also provided a booth for members of the public to obtain information on SSPN savings as well as issues related to PTPTN.

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