

# Varsities ensure facilities, S.O.P in place for return of students

**KUALA LUMPUR:** Higher education institutions are eagerly awaiting the return of students to campuses in phases, with some already having made preparations.

International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) rector Professor Emeritus Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak said the varsity had prepared Internet facilities and devices for on-campus use.

"We are grateful for the announcement by the Higher Education Ministry's recognition of the need for students to return to universities.

"This (preparations) is something that IIUM had drafted even before the announcement.

"We have prepared the accessibility and facilities that they need on campus, especially those

who do not have access to connectivity for online teaching.

"Students can get access to clinical and practical training as well as workshops when they return to university."

He said IIUM, which has a massive population of international students, would work with Education Malaysia Global Services to facilitate their return.

He said IIUM had 7,000 students from more than 100 countries.

"We are making sure that these students are eligible to return to campus, in terms of being free of Covid-19.

"The university has worked

hard over the last three months to ensure that it is a green zone."

He said the university would ensure that the Health Ministry's standard operating procedures (SOP) were adhered to, including those on social distancing, without sacrificing social bonding.

"We will make it mandatory for students to download the MyTrace or MySejahtera application so that we can keep in touch with them on their where-

abouts.

"We are also ready in terms of campus accommodation."

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Ir Dr Mohd Hamdi



Tan Sri Dzulkipli Abdul Razak

Abdul Shukor said the university would offer short courses from next month to September as the remaining number of students would return to the campus by the middle of this month.

He said the university would have more time to prepare for the new semester in October.

"Most students have returned to their hometowns.

"Those on campus are final-year and post-graduate students.

"As for the staff, we are operating at full capacity.

"However, we have allowed those with high health risks or those with children to work from home."

He said the university was ready to comply with the SOP, including temperature checks at all locations, including faculties,

providing hand sanitiser, as well as ensuring social distancing in offices, classrooms, laboratories and meeting rooms.

Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Vice-Chancellor Emeritus Professor Datuk Ir Dr Mohd Azraai Kassim said the university was ready to allow the return of students.

He said UiTM had been monitoring updates by the authorities on Covid-19.

"Teaching and learning programmes are conducted using the open and distance learning modes.

"The university has made preparations that adhere to the SOP, which will be implemented when the students return." **Additional reporting by Esther Landau**