

# There are measures to help students, says VC

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**KUANTAN:** It is difficult to accept reports of public university students going hungry because there are always channels and opportunities prepared by university managements to help students.

"I believe a university should not be turned into a welfare institution but we must have measures in place to take care of students' well-being," said Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) vice-chancellor Prof Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim.

For instance, UMP has a petty cash scheme to help students who need money in an emergency.

"There are other opportunities to earn money, such as through the working students scheme.

"Many students also do business in campus or work part-time outside the university to earn extra money," he said yesterday.

Dr Daing said he had met with the UMP Student Representative Council and there was not a single



**Various choices:** Dr Daing (centre) showing some UMP students a list of available options for students in need of money.

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case reported of students not getting to eat at the university.

"I cannot even imagine a phenomenon of starving students. I believe other public universities too will not allow this to happen."

UMP deputy vice-chancellor (student and alumni affairs) Prof Datuk Dr Yuserrie Zainuddin said the uni-

versity had a cheap lunch takeaway programme during exam season, with each RM5 lunch box sold to students for only RM1.

UMP student council president Madyasir Ahmad Basir said he had never come across any student who had to starve, but he knew students who preferred to spend wisely.

"Some students want to save money but not to the point of starvation. Sometimes, I only have two meals a day if I want to save.

"It is normal to see students running out of cash at the end of a semester but there are many options to earn extra money. It is all in the planning," he said.