UNDERPRIVILEGED and orphaned undergraduates from Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) are set to have new dormitory accommodation as they pursue their tertiary education.

UMP, Pahang Islamic Religious and the Malay Customs Council (MUIP) are involved in the provision of the RM5 million Kolej Kediaman Mawaddah on a 0.8ha site at the university’s campus in Pekan.

This will be done through the launch of an online endowment or wakaf atas talian.

The Regent of Pahang, Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah, who is also UMP chancellor, and Tengku Puan Pahang will officiate the residential college as well as UMP’s Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebration at Dataran Pusat Aktiviti Pelajar.

UMP vice-chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim said the university aimed to meet the needs of these students who are burdened by financial constraints.

"MUIP has also agreed to be included in the project to build the residential college under the Pahang Endowment Fund System and that all funds collected will be fully channelled to the project.

"UMP is also allowed to collect wakaf (endowment) cash donations from members of the public for the project. The residential college, set to be completed by next year, will benefit around 220 students who are orphans and asnaf (underprivileged)," he said.

Daing also revealed new developments involving the MyGift UMP programme.

It will serve as a vehicle to channel the university’s endowment for the purpose of sponsoring education, providing facilities to students and to instil the habit of helping the needy.

He said there are 10 types of endowment or funds implemented, such as Kursi Endowment, Student Scholarship Endowment, Laboratory/Facility Endowment and Excellence Endowment.

He said other aid available includes Ramadan Fund, Mosque Fund, Disaster Fund, Wakaf Fund, Community Fund and Facilities Fund.

He added that recently, the MyGift Trustee Board has agreed to provide a Student Scholarship Endowment of RM560,000.

This is for students from poor families, who achieved stellar academic results.

The MyGift initiative, which is an education incentive scheme of RM1,000 for every student, will continue to benefit new students facing financial constraints during the next academic session registration. The assistance will be channelled to the Student Affairs and Alumni Department to help these students.

Meanwhile, to improve campus facilities, the Student Representative Council will act as a prime mover in ensuring the success of the “Mahasiswa Bina Masjid” (Students Build Mosque) initiative in which students collect funds to help build a mosque in the campus.

The MyGift programme was introduced to the campus community and alumni as well as other parties, like industries and corporations, to contribute to the university’s endowment fund.

With the existence of the cash endowment, as well as various ways for the public to contribute, it will act as a lifetime investment for the benefit of the ummah (Islamic community).

Those who wish to contribute can either deposit into the accounts of Bank Islam 06073010024679 or Maybank 556235309907, under the name of the UMP treasurer, or via the online portal of Dana Wakaf Pahang at ewakaf.mui.p.gov.my, or through Internet banking via the portal mygift.ump.edu.my.