

MOHE Identifies Eight Students Affected By Sandakan Fire, Extends Immediate Aid

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GEORGE TOWN- The Higher Education Ministry(MOHE) has identified eight students from higher education institutions affected by the devastating fire that destroyed Kampung Bahagia in Sandakan, Sabah, last week.Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir said the ministry, through the Yayasan Perkasa Sisa, took immediate steps to trace students impacted by the disaster as soon as it was notified.

"So far, we have identified eight students from the affected area, and we have decided to assist them to help ease their burden, especially those who are continuing their studies at higher education institutions," he said.He was speaking to reporters after attending the Malaysia-Türkiye Education Forum 2026: The Shared Purpose: Building Empathetic World Through. Among those assisted is Sitti Farhana Nasib, a 21-year-old first-year student at USM, who received RM3,000 in immediate aid.Zambry said the assistance is intended to ensure affected students can continue their education despite the loss of their homes and the hardships faced by their families.He has also instructed Yayasan Perkasa Sisa to continue identifying any other affected students who may not yet have come forward.On April 19, a massive fire destroyed about 1,000 homes in Kampung Bahagia, a water village in Sandakan, displacing thousands of residents.At the same time, Malaysia and Türkiye agreed to strengthen higher education ties through annual bilateral meetings. Key initiatives include student and academic exchanges, joint research, scholarship opportunities, and a dual-degree mobility programme (two years in each country). Both nations also plan to establish a joint academic institute, involving International Islamic University Malaysia and Universiti Malaya, with a partner institution in Türkiye to be determined.

