

MOHE Aims To Provide Residential College Places For 70 Pct Of Students By 2035 - Zambry

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The Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) aims to provide residential college facilities for at least 70 per cent of all full-time undergraduate enrolments at public universities and polytechnics nationwide by 2035. Its Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said the target is outlined under the Residential College Facilities Policy for Public Higher Education Institutions (IPTA), which was developed in November 2024 following engagements with the Malaysian Universities Housing Council and student leaders.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir said MOHE remains committed to ensuring students have access to safe, comfortable and conducive accommodation, particularly those from the B40 group. Responding to Mohd Sany Hamzan (PH-Hulu Langat) in the Dewan Rakyat, he said the ministry is expanding residential colleges under its long-term plan to reduce students' reliance on costly off-campus rentals. Zambry said MOHE received nearly RM1.1 billion under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) and the first year of the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) to replace, upgrade and rehabilitate ageing infrastructure at public higher education institutions, while RM225 million was allocated to refurbish existing hostels. During the same period, 36 residential college projects were implemented through public-private partnerships (PPP), with 15 completed, providing accommodation for up to 45,000 students. Under the 13MP, five new residential colleges are planned through the PPP model, expected to house up to 21,000 students. He added that priority for on-campus accommodation is given to B40 students, Orang Asli, persons with disabilities (PwDs), Student Representative Council members, PALAPES and Kesatria participants, as well as students from asnaf and other disadvantaged groups. Universities have also introduced initiatives such as transportation assistance to help B40 and M40 students living off campus.

