

Discount card for varsity students gets thumbs-up

By **KAREN CHAPMAN**
and **TAN EE LOO**

educate@thestar.com.my

PETALING JAYA: The introduction of the special discount card for private and public university students is a welcome move.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said the card would be issued to all Malaysian students including those from teacher education institutes and industrial training institutes.

"Final-year students will receive the card first," he said when asked about the 1Malaysia Student Discount Card (KDS1M).

Students, he added, did not have to apply for the cards.

Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, who launched the special discount card on Monday, said it would benefit more than 1.5 million students.

With the card, students can enjoy discounts of up to 60% on a wide range of items, including food

and services.

Those that have agreed to accept the card include KFC, The Chicken Rice Shop, A&W, Mydin, Menara Optik, Berjaya Books Sdn Bhd (Borders Malaysia), MPH Bookstores Sdn Bhd and Bata Marketing Sdn Bhd.

Sunway Education Group senior executive director Elizabeth Lee described it as a great move.

"The discount card will be especially useful for students who live on a strict budget. It will also send a

positive message to international students, whom we are all trying to attract," she said.

Lee hoped other merchants would also consider offering discounts in areas such as flight tickets, computer hardware and software as well as telecommunication services.

Taylor's University vice-chancellor and president Prof Datuk Dr Hassan Said felt the financial pressure faced by students would be relieved with the discount card.

"It is student-friendly which will

be welcomed by parents as well," he added.

Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohadi said the card would be useful for all students, particularly those waiting for scholarships or loans from the National Higher Education Fund Corporation.

Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob had said the issuance of the cards was being handled by Bank Rakyat.