

Trio seek 'greener pasture' during holiday

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PETALING JAYA: Three students from Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) are doing grass-cutting work during their semester break to earn extra pocket money.

News of their venture also earned Muhammad Naquiddin Afiq Hapie Hazali, 21, Mohd Suhaimi Che Darus and Muhammad Ariff Abdul Razak, both 20, job offers as well as a grass-cutting machine.

"We received several job offers, including selling products and grass-cutting, by established companies. We were also offered a machine to cut grass.

"But we declined as we do not have time to fully commit to the jobs," said Muhammad Naquiddin.

All three are from east coast states. Their parents are mainly retirees and one of them is a farmer.

The three got the idea to start the business, armed with two machines, after seeing overgrown grass around their university in Serdang in July.

Since then, they have been traveling on their motorcycles to nearby areas like Kajang, Bangi and Seri Kembangan to provide grass-cutting services to residents.

"We do not set any charges. We leave it to our customers to pay us as they wish," said Muhammad Naquiddin.

Mohd Suhaimi said he was stopped by police once while on his way to a customer's house.

"As I was riding my motorcycle with the grass cutter, the police mistook me for a foreigner. I had to



Earning pocket money: (From left) Mohd Suhaimi, Muhammad Ariff and Muhammad Naquiddin working at UPM.

explain that I was just a university student cutting grass to make some money," he said.

However, the attention they generated cut both ways as critics said they were not exactly poor folk who needed to resort to such work.

"We are not ashamed to cut grass. Instead, we found it shameful people had said that about us on social

media," said Muhammad Naquiddin.

When the semester break ends next month, they will find a way to juggle their studies, university activities and their part-time work.

UPM deputy vice-chancellor of student affairs and alumni Datuk Dr Mohammad Shatar Sabran said the university had no issue with

students working to earn extra income "as long as they obey rules and regulations and do not let the work affect their academic performances".

UPM student affairs division head Noor Mohamad Shakil Hameed said the university had special funds to help ease the burden of needy students.