



UPNM

National Defence University of Malaysia
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DSA Pledges RM400,000 to UPNM Scholarship Fund for Children of Armed Forces and Police Personnel

Empowering Education and Honouring the Sacrifice of Malaysia's Defence and Security Heroes

Kuala Lumpur, 17 December 2024 – DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd (DSA) has announced a significant commitment of RM400,000 to Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM) to establish a scholarship fund dedicated to the children of serving and retired personnel from the Malaysian Armed Forces and Royal Malaysia Police. The initiative will commence with an initial disbursement of RM100,000 this year, reinforcing DSA's dedication to advancing education and honouring the sacrifices made by the nation's defenders.

The formal signing ceremony took place at UPNM, marking a pivotal moment in the collaboration between DSA and UPNM. The agreement was signed by Lt General Datuk Mardzuki bin Muhammad, Vice Chancellor of UPNM, and Datuk Azzat Kamaludin, Director of DSA. The event was attended by key stakeholders, including Major General Dato' Dr. Kwong Fook Wen, Assistant Vice Chancellor of Industry Relations and Corporate Affairs of UPNM, and En. Nadzeem Abdul Rahman, Executive Director of DSA.

In his address, Lt General Datuk Mardzuki bin Muhammad emphasised the transformative potential of this scholarship:

"This partnership is a beacon of how collaboration between industry leaders and academic institutions can drive meaningful change. DSA's unwavering support empowers UPNM to provide life-changing opportunities to deserving students from military and police families. This initiative aligns with our mission to produce graduates who embody excellence, resilience, and leadership. We are honoured to be part of this exemplary effort to uplift the next generation."

Datuk Azzat Kamaludin also shared insights on the significance of this initiative:

"At DSA, we see this scholarship fund as an opportunity to reshape how industry could contribute to national progress. By bridging education and industry, this initiative fosters innovation, leadership, and academic excellence among the deserving children

of those who serve our nation. We are proud to partner with UPNM in a shared vision to empower young Malaysians and ensure their families' sacrifices are honoured."

The DSA Scholarship Fund will be distributed biennially until 2030, targeting outstanding UPNM students with exceptional academic merit and financial need. This initiative aims to provide essential resources and opportunities for children from defence and security families. The collaboration was initially announced during the Thank You Reception for DSA & NATSEC Asia 2026 earlier this year at MITEC Kuala Lumpur. A symbolic cheque for RM100,000 was presented to UPNM during this event, witnessed by YB Dato' Seri Mohamed Khaled bin Nordin, Minister of Defence, and YB Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution bin Ismail, Minister of Home Affairs. This strategic initiative reflects DSA's commitment to community engagement and fostering excellence beyond its renowned exhibitions. It underscores education's vital role in national resilience and progress while empowering future leaders within Malaysia's defence and security sectors.

Universiti Pertahanan Nasional Malaysia (UPNM) is Malaysia's leading institution for defence and security education. The university is dedicated to academic excellence and leadership development, preparing students to contribute effectively to the nation's defence landscape through innovative programs that emphasise critical thinking and service.

Whereas DSA Exhibition and Conference Sdn Bhd is a Malaysian-owned company established to successfully organise the Defence Services Asia series of exhibitions in collaboration with the Malaysian Government. In 2018, DSA introduced National Security (NATSEC) Asia as a sub-event focusing on homeland security held alongside DSA. Supported by the Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Home Affairs, DSA is recognised as Asia's largest defence and homeland security exhibition showcasing advanced technologies in systems, hardware, and electronic warfare. The 19th edition of DSA (DSA 2026) along with NATSEC Asia will take place from 20–23 April 2026 at the Malaysia International Trade and Exhibition Centre (MITEC) in Kuala Lumpur.

For further information, kindly contact:

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