

To prevent Indonesian talent from failing to attend university due to costs, the Kemdiktisaintek has asked state universities to conduct investigations.

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UPNVJ Public Relations - Jakarta - The Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Technology (Kemdiktisaintek) has requested that all state universities (PTN) conduct a search for prospective students who have passed the new student admissions selection process but have not yet re-registered. This step is part of the government's commitment to ensuring that no young Indonesian talent misses out on higher education opportunities solely due to financial constraints.

The investigation was conducted to obtain a more comprehensive picture of the various factors influencing prospective students' decisions to discontinue their registration. The Ministry of Education and Science and Technology fully respects prospective students' decisions to choose other universities or educational pathways. However, if the primary reason for not re-registering is financial constraints, state universities are asked to actively communicate with prospective students to find the best solution in accordance with applicable regulations.

One step that can be taken is to review the determination of the Single Tuition Fee (UKT) group according to the family's economic condition, accompanied by optimizing various educational assistance schemes owned by universities so that students who have academic potential can continue their higher education.

Minister of Higher Education, Science, and Technology Brian Yulianto expressed his appreciation for the various breakthroughs made by state university leaders to help students facing economic challenges continue their studies. These efforts include adjusting tuition fees (UKT) to reflect students' economic

circumstances, providing university-funded scholarships, providing scholarship support from alumni and partners, and even a work scholarship program that allows students to receive both tuition assistance and work experience.

These good practices have now been implemented by many state universities in Indonesia. One example is the University of Mataram (Unram), which implements a tuition fee policy based on students' economic capabilities. According to Unram data, approximately 42 percent of students pay tuition fees in the lowest group, between Rp 500,000 and Rp 1 million per semester, excluding approximately 30 percent of students in UKT Group III. Furthermore, 690 students received a full tuition fee waiver, including 13 students in the Medical Study Program, allowing them to study without paying tuition fees. This policy demonstrates that access to higher education, including medical study programs, remains open to high-achieving students from low-income families.

The Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology also commended several regional governments for demonstrating their commitment to expanding access to higher education by providing scholarship programs for local residents. The scholarship programs run by the Jakarta Provincial Government, East Kalimantan, and several other regions exemplify the synergy between regional governments in expanding access to higher education for local residents.

Collaboration between universities, local governments, alumni, the business community, and various stakeholders demonstrates that expanding access to higher education is a shared responsibility. This spirit of mutual cooperation is expected to further reduce the economic barriers faced by prospective students.

Minister Brian emphasized that the state must be present to ensure that no child of the nation is prevented from continuing higher education simply because of financial issues.

"We respect every prospective student's choice. If they choose another university or educational path, that is certainly their right. However, if any prospective students decide not to continue their studies due to financial constraints, we want to ensure the government is there to provide a solution. We must ensure that no Indonesian children with academic ability and a passion for learning lose the opportunity to attend college simply because of financial issues," said Minister Brian.

According to Minister Brian, higher education is a strategic investment for the nation's future. Therefore, every talented Indonesian should have an equal opportunity to develop, regardless of their family's economic situation.

This tracking process also forms part of the ongoing evaluation of the new student admissions system. Information obtained from state universities will inform improvements to various policies, from admission mechanisms and information services to prospective students, to strengthening various affirmative action schemes and educational assistance to ensure they are more targeted.

In line with the spirit of Impactful Higher Education, Science, and Technology, the Ministry of Education and Technology is committed to providing higher education that is increasingly inclusive, high-quality, and equitable. Through this initiative, the government aims to ensure that every talented Indonesian has an equal opportunity to pursue higher education and develop their potential, regardless of family economic circumstances.

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