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Giving hope to more students

THERE has been a sharp rise in the number of students approaching the Hope Foundation to take various courses in private institutions of higher learning.

Its patron Datuk Ong Tee Keat said some 400 students had approached the foundation this year compared with 40 when the foundation was first launched early last year.

Hope, which stands for Higher Opportunities For Private Education, is a non-profit organisation set up to assist in placing students, who are unable to enter local universities, into local private institutions.

Ong, who is also Transport Minister, added that the 400 students were currently enrolled in 12 participating institutions in the country.

"The programme taps into the excess capacity of the institutions.

"The institutions are not asked to create extra courses or places or come up with an alternative scheme that will affect their business," he added, noting that the institutions had pledged 8,000 places.

Speaking when meeting some of the participants from Perak recently, Ong added that the foundation, besides creating more opportunities for SPM and STPM school leavers to pursue higher studies, also assisted in obtaining financial aid for the students.

A second intake is currently ongoing, said Ong, adding that United Examination Certificate students would have a separate intake at the end of the year.

For more details, go to www.hope.org.my where the application forms can be downloaded.

The closing date for applications is Oct 31.

To be eligible for the programme, STPM students have to obtain a Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of at least 2.0 and at least five credit passes at SPM level.