KOTA KINABALU: Rector of Universiti Teknologi Mara (UiTM) Sabah Campus Dr Abdul Kadir Rosline is calling for more corporate bodies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to come forward to finance its Mengubah Destini Anak Bangsa (MDAB) Programme.

MDAB is a programme initiated by the university to provide educational opportunity for qualified poor Malay and the Bumiputeras from rural areas as well as urban areas whose parents’ monthly income is less than RM2,000.

Students who successfully complete and pass this (MDAB) programme will be offered places to continue their studies for diploma programmes according to the rules and qualifications set by the UiTM Student Admission Department.

These students will be fully sponsored by the university.

“About 80 per cent of our students here are from hardcore poor families and they really need an opportunity to continue their studies to the highest level,” said Kadir.

“The MDAB programme has been helping them to fund their studies but we are still having a lot of challenges especially with the funding,” Kadir said after the handing-over of Zakat contribution from Elita Takatul Berhad (Elita) at Wisma Wilawna at the university, yesterday.

Elita contributed RM100,000 to UiTM Sabah to help the less able students to pursue their studies at the university.

Elita’s family agency head Sani Ayob presented the contribution to Kadir.

This was the first time Elita contributed its Zakat to the university to fund needy students including non-Malay students who are eligible to receive the Zakat under Islamic Syariah (Law).

According to Sani, apart from contributing Zakat to all Zakat collection centres nationwide, Elita is also giving some of the funds under its Corporate Zakat Responsibility.

“This contribution is expected to ease the burden of disadvantaged students as well as motivate them to seek knowledge. Indirectly, it can also boost the living standards of the students’ families when they succeed,” said Sani.