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SIARAN MEDIA

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PRESS STATEMENT

BY

THE DIRECTOR OF YAYASAN SABAH,

DATO' SRI HAJI GULAMHAIDAR @ YUSOF BIN KHAN BAHADAR

ON

YAYASAN SABAH'S

COMMITMENT TOWARDS EDUCATION:

EMPOWERING STUDENTS THROUGH TARGETED FINANCIAL SUPPORT

KOTA KINABALU (Tuesday): Yayasan Sabah places education at the heart of its mission, focusing on the critical secondary and higher education areas. In line with this, Yayasan Sabah is committed to providing and carrying out various education programmes to create a dynamic and competitive society. Various initiatives are in place to support this noble effort.

Through targeted scholarships, bursaries, and loans, Yayasan Sabah aims to foster equal learning opportunities and ensure no student is left behind. Yayasan Sabah intensified its efforts, recognising that investment in education is key to Sabah's long-term development.

For secondary education, the number of recipients in 2018 was 1,789, rising slightly to 1,790 in 2023, with funding increasing from RM1.86 million in 2018 to RM2.42 million in 2023. This significant increase in funding is attributed to the rise in cost-of-living allowances and higher school fees, ensuring students receive adequate support to meet the growing financial demands of their education. As of October 2024, RM1.99 million out of the RM 2.96 million allocations meant for 2024 were utilised to support secondary school students through scholarships and bursaries, benefitting more than 2,072 students across Sabah. This initiative provided much-needed financial assistance and helped ease the burden on families, particularly those in rural areas. Priority was given to students from low-income households, ensuring they could continue their education uninterrupted.

Since 2018, the Yayasan Sabah Secondary Assistance Scheme (BMYS) programme has allocated RM420,000 annually to support secondary school students. Each year, 2,100 students have benefited from this initiative, bringing the total expenditure from 2018 to 2024 to RM2.94 million and the total number of recipients to 14,700 students. This additional sustained financial assistance has ensured that rural students from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds can excel in their education without financial burden.

Yayasan Sabah introduced the Special Assistance Scheme (SBK), targeting B40 families to promote educational equality further and close the education gap. This programme supplements the government's efforts to alleviate the burdens faced by B40 parents. From 2023 to 2024, the SBK Programme supported 15,523 students, with a cumulative expenditure of RM1.46 million. This demonstrates Yayasan Sabah's unwavering focus on ensuring that students from economically challenged families receive the necessary support to pursue their education.

For tertiary education, the number of recipients has increased from 1,176 in 2018 to 2,690 recipients in 2023, with funding rising from RM25.29 million in 2018 to RM36.5 million in 2023. In 2024, Yayasan Sabah allocated RM66.1 million towards higher education scholarships, bursaries and loans, empowering 3,934 Sabahan students to pursue tertiary education at local and abroad institutions. These fundings covered tuition fees, accommodation, and living expenses, opening pathways for students to study in disciplines crucial to Sabah's future, including engineering, healthcare, and education.

Another noble initiative is the Sabah State Education Trust Fund (TPNS) which was launched by the Chief Minister of Sabah cum Chairman of the Yayasan Sabah Board of Trustees, Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Noor in June 2022. Since its launch, the initiative has assisted 7,369 students and 32 education bodies, involving RM 9.7 million.

TPNS, with the theme "Sponsorship Opportunities For All," aligns with one of the three thrusts of the Sabah Maju Jaya (SMJ) 2021-2025 development plan to improve the quality of human capital and people's well-being. Yayasan Sabah, through TPNS, has proven to help more Sabah students continue higher education.

If we can assist more Sabah students in furthering their education to a higher level, it will improve the quality of education in the State, which is the foundation of human capital development. As a result, these students will help invigorate the economic sector, as stated in the SMJ.

TPNS is crucial in assisting students from underrepresented communities, especially those from rural areas and indigenous backgrounds, ensuring they receive equal access to education. With an emphasis on sustainable funding, Yayasan Sabah aims to increase contributions from various companies to TPNS annually over the next five years, ensuring a stable and growing fund for future generations.

Touching on our two educational institutions, i.e. University College Sabah Foundation (UCSF) and Kolej Teknologi Yayasan Sabah (KTYS), Yayasan Sabah provides funding to these institutions.

Funding was increased from RM5.17 million in 2018 to RM15.8 million in 2024 for UCSF, while from RM4.46 million in 2018, funding was increased to RM20.68 million in 2024 to KTYS to provide scholarships and loans to students and cover the institution's operational costs.

These initiatives ensure the success of both UCSF and KTYS in the higher education scene and produce youth with a better future.

Accordingly, Yayasan Sabah's investment in education from 2020 to 2024 is expected to reach RM210.5 million. This substantial financial commitment reflects our strategic priority to nurture talent, enhance educational access, and empower future generations, ensuring the community's long-term growth and sustainable progress.

Our focus on education, from child development to higher education, demonstrates our deep commitment to developing Sabah's human capital. We believe that education is the most powerful tool for transformation, and we must ensure that all students, regardless of their background, have the opportunity to excel and contribute to the future of our State.

Yayasan Sabah is committed to further fostering partnerships with government agencies, private sectors, and international institutions to strengthen these initiatives. Through its strategic efforts, Yayasan Sabah seeks to nurture a generation of skilled professionals and leaders who will drive Sabah's progress and create a prosperous future for all.

The Management of Yayasan Sabah is adamant about ensuring that all planned efforts are implemented and that our people's educational development agenda continues.



Director of Yayasan Sabah,
Dato' Sri Haji Gulamhaidar @ Yusof bin Khan Bahadar

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