

RM12mil BISBAH Programme to help schools in Sabah

By WU VUIDE

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government is allocating RM12 million this year to assist 1,600 national and secondary schools in Sabah through the Sabah School Assistance Programme (BISBAH).

The aid includes computers, LCD projectors, printers, smart TVs, air conditioners and portable speakers.

BISBAH is part of the State Government's efforts to improve education in Sabah, aligned with the Sabah Maju Jaya's Development Plan on human capital development.

The announcement was made by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor during the Presentation of Education Aid and Sabah State Education Excellence Award 2023 at the Sabah International Convention Centre here.

The speech was delivered by Science, Technology and Innovation Minister, Datuk Mohd Arifin Mohd Arif.

Additionally, he said RM7.5 million has been allocated to support 38,000 students from B40 and M40 families taking the SPM, STPM, and STAM exams through the Special Examination Cash Assistance (BAKTI) programme, providing RM200 per person.

"The State Government is also addressing the financial needs of the B40 group by continuing the IPT Registration Cash Assistance One Off (BUDI) programme, providing funding

for their children's registration in Higher Education Institutions (IPTs)," said Hajiji.

Furthermore, he said RM1 million has been allocated as the State Education Fund Courtesy Assistance (BISTARI) for the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN), disbursed through the National Education Savings Scheme (SSPN).

To assist in school maintenance, he said the State Government has introduced the Small School Maintenance Assistance (BALKIS) programme, with an RM4 million allocation for repairs and maintenance costing below RM50,000.

"The Bantuan Ihsan Komputer (BAIK) programme will continue, providing 1,000 laptops to Sabah students from the e-kasih group studying at IPTs, with an allocation of RM2 million," he said.

Additionally, he said the State Government has allocated RM500,000 for the Special Programme Assistance Education (BANTU) and the Malaysian Sabah Students Secretariat (SEMESTA) to support Sabah students at home and abroad.

The Chief Minister expressed his hope that recipients will effectively utilise the educational assistance provided and be motivated to continue learning and achieve success.

The State Government has also prepared the Hu-



Arifin (5th from left, back row), and others at the function yesterday.

man Capital Development Blueprint for Sabah (2021-2035) to ensure the relevance of syllabus, knowledge, skills, and expertise among youth.

"Skills training programmes, including Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), will be implemented based on industry needs, with im-

provements in facilities and training aids," he said.

"The government's prioritisation of education as it plays a vital role in shaping the future of the nation's

children," said Hajiji.

He encouraged the youth to avoid narrow and destructive ideologies, fostering a competitive mindset and striving for excellence.