Varsity launches RM10 million scholarship fund for Sabah

By Shalina K.

KOTA KINABALU: Government and private sector scholarship awards can go a long way to help keep the nation's children in school.

Community Development and Consumer Affairs minister, Datuk Jailan Ahmad Aiyid, said collaborative efforts to elevate education among the future generation starts early in school.

"Since the scholarship is able to reduce the dropout rate among school students, the government has once again used an approach to realize the compulsory education policy implemented to eliminate the dropout problem in the Malaysian school system," said Jailan.

The Government had also introduced the poor students trust fund (KWAMP) in order to help strengthen education among the people starting from the school," she added.

The initiative will also prepare today's potential future generation with the tools needed to govern the country in the future, stressed Jailan.

"Each party providing scholarships, regardless of government and private sector, has the same goal, as an incentive or encouragement to students to continue their studies successfully, which will subsequently be a pillar of national development," she said.

Jailan pointed out that the MyTrainSc RPT, MyMaster, MyPHD, MyPDI Industry scholarships are among government initiatives to increase the quantity and quality of higher education in the country.

"However, improvement in education is not only the task of the government. Private bodies must also have a hand at elevating the education in our country," she added.

"Therefore, private sector efforts to create its own initiative to voluntarily cooperate with the current government to support scholarship program should be commended," she said when launching the state-level RM10 million Asia Metropolitan University (AMU) Scholarship and presentation at Likas yesterday.

"Clearly, the most significant effect can be seen as a result of the granting of scholarships in Malaysia is the increase in enrolment rate, as a basis for nurturing a creative, innovative and highly skilled human capital," she added.

AMU extended a RM5 million scholarship grant at the event, organized by the AMU campus in Kota Kinabalu (KK), to assist Malaysian students in continuing and furthering their higher education.

The campaign will help outstanding students to gain various diplomas, degrees and pursue postgraduate programs in medicine, pharmacy, physiotherapy, medical lab technology, occupational health & safety, allied health sciences, nursing and business, entrepreneurship and leadership at AMU.

"In the beginning of 2016, the Board of Governors and Board of Directors of Asia Met Education Group Berhad (AEGB), the holding company that owns Asia Metropolitan University in Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru and also AMU Associate Colleges in Kota Bahru, Kuching and Kota Kinabalu, have agreed to provide a RM10 million worth of scholarships to assist Malaysian students to fulfill their dreams to continue and further their higher education needs," explained AEGB executive director, Subramaniam A/L Amamlayan.

"Today, we are most delighted to have the presence among us leaders of UPRO (United Pasok Momogun Kadasan Dusan Murut Organisation), Pribumi Sabah, JPNS (Jabatan Pendidikan Negeri Sabah), MARA Sabah, FELDA and Jabatan Hal Ehwal Kesatuan Sekerja Sabah to receive scholarships from AMU worth some RM5 million to Sabahans to begin their Foundations and Diplomas program at our AMU Associate Colleges, KK.

"It is our fervent hope that after completion of the one-year program in Foundation in Health Sciences and Foundation in Business Studies or the three-year Diploma program at our KK campus, these bright kids will proceed to our Peninsula university to complete their undergraduate degrees and even to postgraduate studies," he added.

The scholarship campaign, which is part AMU's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, offers full scholarship sponsorship.

"Indeed the asset of a nation is its people and only by investing in the people we would have the means to develop our nation towards 2020," said, Subramaniam.

"We are therefore appreciative that the above bodies representing the community of Sabahans, have accepted to receive the RM5 million worth of scholarships that we have set aside for our KK campus, on behalf of the prospective students. We are glad to be able to have the opportunity to do the little we can for the community of Sabah at this economic challenging times," he concluded.

Puspita, MARA and JPNS each received RM500,000 worth of scholarship while the remaining six bodies received RM200,000 each.