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Age limit for `Along Graduan' scheme set at 15

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - The "Along Graduan" scheme has been revised to include children up to the age of 15, according to a circular issued by the chief executive officer of Malaysia National Insurance Bhd, Sulaiman Salem.

The initial amount has also been reduced from RM330 to RM110.

The Along Graduan scheme was introduced last December to encourage the young between the ages of six months to 10 years to save.

The scheme launched by MNI, a subsidiary of Permodalan Nasional Bhd which controls 70 per cent of the insurance company equity, is targeted to garner savings from the young or through the savings of the parents of the young to achieve the ultimate national objective of netting more than 44 per cent of the gross national product, a lofty target set by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Along Graduan scheme initially called for an investment of RM330 and an annual investment determined by the parents of the child.

But after assessing the response from the public, PNB and MNI have revised the terms of the scheme. Parents with children up to the age of 15 can now invest on their behalf.

They only have to make an initial investment of RM110 but they can top up the investment monthly, quarterly, biannually or annually with whatever amount they can invest. But the minimum investment is RM30.

Earlier, the minimum amount that the parent could save on behalf of the children was RM100 or multiples of that sum. Now, MNI has reduced the figure to enable more parents to save on behalf of their children.

It must also be noted that according to the circular there is no maximum to the amount that parents can save for their children under the scheme, monthly, quarterly or annually.

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