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Masing-Fund

BAKUN TRUST FUND HAS RM11 MILLION IN ITS COFFERS

KUCHING, Feb 24 (Bernama) -- The Bakun Trust Fund for Education to help people in the Belaga District in Kapit Division now has RM11 million from the original RM10 million.

The Fund was launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in 1996 with a Federal launching grant of RM5 million and with a state government contribution of another RM5 million.

Its chairman Datuk Dr James Jemut Masing said the additional one million was accrued from various investments and 200 students had so far benefited from the fund.

"One of the Bakun Trust Fund scholars will graduate this year," he told reporters after launching the Transmile Air Package and Transmile Air Holiday here today.

Dr Masing said the undergraduate who majored in architecture was the only overseas student sponsored by the fund.

He said so far RM500,000 had been given out as scholarships to students in the area to further their studies in various fields.

On the Transmile packages, Dr Masing hoped it would encourage domestic tourism as the airfare provided was the cheapest among passenger flight operators.

Under both packages Transmile Air, which was established in 1993 offered an airfare as low as RM179 for a one way fare excluding tour packages from Kuching to the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport in Subang and RM299 from Kota Kinabalu to Subang.

The return ticket from Kuching to Subang is RM299 for Kuching to Subang and RM499 for Kota Kinabalu to Subang.

Initially, there will be one flight daily between Subang, Kota Kinabalu and Kuching and it would be increased based on market response and demand.

-- BERNAMA

RDY AAM