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Motivate poor to change lives, PM tells Youth wing

SUNGAI PETANI, Wed. - Umno Youth has been asked not only to give financial help to the lower income group but also to motivate them to make an effort to change their lives.

Umno Youth assistant secretary Zulkifli Alwi said the request came from Umno president and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad after he studied reports on problems faced by the poor, compiled during the movement's poverty eradication programme.

"He also wants Umno Youth to motivate not only the poor in the rural areas but also those in urban areas," he said.

He spoke at Sekolah Menengah Teknik Sungai Petani 2 here after the registration of a student from a poor family in the "Gerak Kerja Kemiskinan" programme.

Also present were Penang Umno Youth Chief Roslan Saidin and principal of the school Hamidah Yahya.

Zulkifli said, through the programme, Umno Youth will concentrate on ensuring that the poor could afford to send their children for higher education.

The student, Samirah Salim, 16, of Kampung Kubang Menerong was unable to continue her studies as her parents could not afford to pay the school fees.

Samirah, who received a RM1,500 grant from the movement today to cover the admission costs, will start attending classes tomorrow.

Her father Salim Nayan, 37, suffers from heart disease and is unable to do heavy work while her mother, Ramlah Pin, 38, suffers from asthma.

Samirah's parents and five siblings who have been living in an abandoned container for four years, will soon move to a new house built under the same programme that is financing her studies.

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