

12 JUL 2002

Mahathir-Aid

DR M TO PRESENT CASH AID TO PADI FARMERS' CHILDREN

ALOR SETAR, July 12 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will present cash aid under the Padi Farmers' Children Education Fund set up by Padiberas Nasional Berhad (BERNAS) to padi farmers' children who excelled in education at a ceremony in Sungai Baru, near here, on Monday.

BERNAS Administration and Human Resource Division Head Haji Zainuri Kurmain said the recipients were padi farmers' children in the Anak Bukit state constituency.

They comprised 150 high achievers in last year's Primary School Assessment Test (UPSR) and Penilaian Menengah Rendah (PMR) examinations. They will receive between RM600 and RM700 each.

A total of 150 Form Three and Form Five students would receive bicycles from Dr Mahathir at Sekolah Kebangsaan Sungai Baru, he told Bernama here today.

He said the recipients would also be given a RM10,000 accident insurance coverage for a year.

He said the cash assistance was specially for padi farmers' children who did not get scholarship and their fathers registered with the recognised padi farmers' associations.

The RM2 million education fund was launched by Dr Mahathir in 2000 to help padi farmers' children who did well in education from primary school till university level.

Zainuri said so far 362 people -- 21 in 1999, 76 (2000), 115 (2001) and 150 this year received financial aid under the fund, excluding bicycle contributions from Kedah, Perlis, Perak, Kelantan, Terengganu, Penang, Selangor, Sabah and Sarawak.

-- BERNAMA

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