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Sarawak-Bidayuh

MORE FROM BIDAYUH COMMUNITY SHOULD SEEK HIGHER EDUCATION

KUCHING, May 29 (Bernama) -- More people from Sarawak's Bidayuh community should seek higher education, State Housing Minister Datuk Michael Manyin said today.

He said at present only 1.5 per cent of the total of 167,000 Bidayuh people in the state were in institutions of higher learning in the country.

"We need to encourage more from the community to go for tertiary education," he told reporters after giving away presents to patients at the the paediatric ward of the Sarawak General Hospital in conjunction with Gawai Dayak celebrations beginning on June 1.

Manyin said there were not many well-to-do Bidayuh people in the state who could chip in to help the poor within the community.

"The last seminar held by the Dayak Bidayuh National Association (DBNA) towards uplifting the standard of education was a step in the right direction," he added.

On housing, he urged squatter families to register with the State Housing Development Commission so that they could stay at walk-up flats with monthly rental of RM150.

Manyin said the government was doing its level best to provide the poor and low-income earners with economy class housing.

He said the government would continue to persuade squatters to move out of their unsightly makeshift homes.

The demand for the economy class houses built statewide had been overwhelming despite reports claiming that there were no takers, he said.

The Bidayuh leader also said the upcoming meeting between Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Pope John Paul II was an honour for the country.

-- BERNAMA

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