

Aid for varsity students

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Bakti resumes monetary help to those who need it

TANJUNG MALIM: Bakti, which stopped giving monetary aid to poor university students in 1998, has now started the charitable act again, said its president Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali.

She said Bakti began giving financial aid biennially since 1985 to students, mainly in the first year, in 15 universities to help them financially.

"Although they manage to secure scholarships, it takes some time before the money reaches them and when they enter universities they need to buy various necessities," said Dr Siti Hasmah, who is also wife of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Bakti raised the aid from RM20,000 to RM50,000 for students and wanted feedback from the university authorities on how much was given out and who had received it, she said.

"However, we felt disappointed that there was no feedback and

we stopped giving out the aid in 1998.

"Now we have started giving out RM20,000 again but we are only giving it to universities which ask for it and the condition that they

furnish Bakti with the names of students who receive the aid," she said yesterday after giving away a mock cheque of RM20,000 from Bakti to Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI) vice-chancellor Professor

Datuk Dr Mohammad Noor Salleh.

Dr Siti Hasmah also handed over a mock cheque of RM150,000 from Bank Islam to Dr Mohammad Noor for the Tabung Sahabat UPSI fund launched by the bank.