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Parliament-Poor

POOR STUDENT TRUST FUND GETS NOD FROM DEWAN RAKYAT

KUALA LUMPUR, April 10 (Bernama) -- The Dewan Rakyat today passed the motion to set up the Poor Student Trust Fund to assist such students and at the same time reduce the number of poor students dropping out from the education system.

The motion was tabled by Parliamentary Secretary of the Finance Ministry Hashim Ismail to amend the Second Schedule of the Financial Procedure Act 1957 by adding the new item "Poor Student Trust Fund".

He said RM200 million had been approved by the cabinet for the setting up of the trust fund which would provide assistance to poor students from the pre-school stage right up to secondary school to enhance their achievement in the field of education.

When winding up the motion, Hashim said the establishment of the trust fund was based on awareness that the poverty factor had resulted in students dropping out from schools.

The establishment of the fund would help students from families earning less than RM500 and with per capita income of RM100 and less and reduce the incidence of such students dropping out from primary and secondary schools.

Hashim said the trustee for the fund would be the Malaysian government and the Secretary-General of the Finance Ministry would be the controller of the fund.

"The trust fund would be administered by the Education Ministry as there is already an advisory board comprising professionals to supervise the channelling of assistance under that ministry," he said when replying to Che Ghani Che Ambak (PAS-Setiu), Datuk Kamaruddin Jaafar (PAS-Tumpat) and Dr Tan Seng Giaw (DAP-Kepong) on the management of the trust fund.

Meanwhile, Education Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir told reporters outside the Dewan Rakyat that the trust fund would be officially launched by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad next month.

He hoped that the initial grant of RM200 million for the fund could be increased with contributions from the private sector and individuals.

-- BERNAMA

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