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School receives 50 copies of NST's educational pullout from a sponsor

KEPALA BATAS, Wed. - Efforts by teachers of Sekolah Menengah Kebangsaan Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi here to teach English more effectively in the classroom got a major boost when they received 50 copies of The Next Step today.

In fact, the students will receive the weekly educational supplement that comes with the New Straits Times every Wednesday for the rest of the year.

This is made possible by a good samaritan who has agreed to sponsor The Next Step for the students.

The good samaritan, who wished to remain anonymous, strongly shared the views of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who has urged Malaysians to muster the English language.

In fact, the good samaritan is also sponsoring Primary Plus, another educational supplement that appears with the NST every Tuesday, for Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Sungai Puyu near Butterworth.

The pupils will also receive 50 copies of the weekly pullout until the end of the year.

The benefactor's kind gesture was related by a Seberang Perai municipal councillor, Azlina Mehtab Mohd Ishaq, who also gave away copies of The Next Step to the SMK Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi students and teachers at the school today.

Also present were teachers and pupils of SRK Sungai Puyu.

Azlina Mehtab said the good samaritan approached her upon learning she was also taking an active role in encouraging greater learning of English among school-children, especially those in rural areas.

"She will also sponsor The Next Step and Primary Plus for two more schools soon."

Meanwhile, SMK Datuk Haji Ahmad Badawi English Language Department head R. Lingeswaran said the The Next Step could be used as an effective and fun tool to teach English among his students.

"The NST Newspaper-In-Education programme is an effective alternative English teaching method because it involves more students' participation and eventually boost their confidence in public speaking," he said.

His Lower Six student Hazwani Shamsudin said the NIE would help improve her English and prepare her for the Malaysian University English Test (MUET).

Lingeswaran's counterpart from SRK Sungai Puyu, Rajakumari Selvaraj, also shared his views.

"We are aware of the effectiveness of the NST-NIE programme, and we are very happy that someone has agreed to sponsor the Primary Plus for our pupils," she said.