

# 'IT IS A COMMITMENT TO COMPASSION'

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Public-private collaboration goes beyond conventional CSR, says PM

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**T**HE public-private collaboration under the Sekolah Angkat Madani initiative goes beyond conventional corporate social responsibility (CSR); instead it reflects a deeper commitment to compassion and nation-building.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the initiative, with participation from four government-linked investment companies (GLICs), namely Yayasan Sime Darby, Yayasan Petronas, Yayasan UEM and Yayasan TM, aimed to uplift educational opportunities for underserved communities.

The initiative, he said, reflected a shared commitment among stakeholders towards advancing a more inclusive and compassionate national agenda, as corporations, civil servants and local communities joined forces to strengthen education in selected schools across the country.

"This collaboration goes beyond CSR. We are talking about compassion when they take on the responsibility to build this nation together and ensure that no one is left behind.

"There is no point in talking purely about impressive growth and investment figures if we



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar (right) and Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek launching the Sekolah Angkat Madani programme in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

choose to neglect the poor and the marginalised.

"We want to see large companies going to schools, engaging with students, introducing themselves and inspiring these young minds with the meaning of success and how education can change their lives.

"This, to me, is a remarkable feat and can only happen with the full support of ministries, particularly the Education Ministry, the Public Service Department and our committed teachers," he said in his keynote address at the launch of the initiative yesterday.

Present were Education Minis-

ter Fadhlina Sidek and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar.

The initiative is a continuation of the government's commitment to driving a whole-of-nation approach to narrow the education gap.

The initiative focuses on five core pillars: improving school infrastructure and facilities; academic and student mentoring programmes; teacher training and professional development; financial aid and scholarships; and, character-building and skills development.

About 1,000 schools have been selected for the programme, with

the support of 32 private companies, 29 government-linked companies (GLCs) and GLICs, 29 government agencies and 27 companies owned by the Minister of Finance Incorporated.

The initiative is being implemented in collaboration with the Education Ministry, alongside the Finance Ministry, focusing on addressing fundamental school needs, such as toilet repairs, provision of science labs, academic mentoring and student character development.

Anwar said the concept began with Kampung Angkat Madani, which provided funding of up to RM100,000 for each village.

The concept was expanded to schools following an overwhelming response from corporate and GLC stakeholders, he said.

"From the initial 300 schools, we increased the number to 500. Now, we have reached about 1,000 schools, thanks to the encouraging response from many large, responsible companies.

"I would like to thank the chief secretary (Shamsul) and teachers for embracing this initiative. Teachers have not only accepted it, but are also open and willing to adopt new approaches for the benefit of their students."

Anwar, who is also finance minister, urged corporate leaders to visit their adopted schools at least twice a year to motivate and engage with the students.

"If chief executive officers and general managers come down, introduce themselves and speak about their company's operations, the children will be inspired.

"We want students in rural schools to know that they, too, have the right to dream big."

Anwar acknowledged that educational challenges remained in remote areas, including issues related to basic facilities, student attendance, teacher availability and infrastructure maintenance.

He hoped close cooperation between the government, corporate sector and communities could be strengthened to ensure no one was left behind in the national education development agenda.

"This is the true spirit of Madani. We build the nation not just with investment figures and profits, but with hearts full of responsibility and love for our children's future."