

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

900 SCHOOLS SIGN UP FOR SAMADANI

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Programme aims to narrow education gap, support underserved communities

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NEARLY 900 schools nationwide have joined the government's Sekolah Angkat Madani initiative (Samadani), aimed at narrowing the education gap and supporting underserved communities.

The programme, introduced under the Madani Economy framework, is on track to meet its target of 1,000 schools by the year end.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar said the initiative reflected the government's determination to ensure that no child was left behind, particularly in rural and under-resourced areas.

"This initiative builds on the success of the Kampung Angkat Madani and Santunj Madani programmes, which demonstrated that direct, collaborative efforts are effective in helping those most in need.

"With Samadani, the effort is being taken a step further by involving schools in need as part of

the broader Madani agenda", he said after the launch yesterday.

He said the government hoped to meet the 1,000 schools target by October.

He said there were nearly 300 participating schools in Sarawak, Sabah, Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah and Perlis, states identified as requiring additional support.

The programme focuses on five core areas: upgrading school infrastructure; strengthening academic and student support; enhancing teacher development; providing financial aid and scholarships; and, fostering student character and soft skills.

Shamsul said the programme's success was possible with the support of more than 80 participating organisations, including:

- 29 government ministries, including the Prime Minister's Department;

- 29 government-linked companies and government-linked investment companies;
- 27 Minister of Finance Incorporated companies, such as Amanah Raya, Bank Rakyat and Bank Simpanan Nasional; and,



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim receiving a briefing from teachers involved in the Sekolah Angkat Madani initiative at its launch in Putrajaya yesterday. NSTP PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

— 32 private sector partners, including 99 Speed Mart, Maxis and Dialog Group.

"This is not a one-off contribution but a strategic partnership designed to bring lasting impact to schools and communities."

Shamsul highlighted existing corporate initiatives that complemented the programme, including Yayasan UEM's tuition programme, which recorded 95 per cent student attendance and 92 per cent academic improvement, and Yayasan Petronas' Duta Guru

Programme, which aimed to train more than 4,500 science, technology, engineering and mathematics teachers, with more than 1,300 already involved.

Other corporate initiatives are Yayasan Sime Darby's support for SK Abaka in Tawau following a fire and Yayasan TM's Future Skills programme, which has certified more than 10,000 students and 1,000 teachers in fields such as robotics and data analytics.

Shamsul said these corporations were not just involved in

repairing infrastructure, but also in talent building, such as by introducing subjects like artificial intelligence and digitalisation.

The first phase of Samadani runs until Dec 31.

Shamsul said the response had been very encouraging and the government hoped to see more companies support the initiative.

"This is not just an investment in education, it is an investment in Malaysia's future leaders and innovators."