

PM, wife visit schools to oversee initiative

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, accompanied by his wife Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, yesterday visited several schools to oversee the distribution of the Bantuan Awal Persekolahan aid, a government initiative designed to ease the financial burden on parents as the new school year begins.

Anwar and Wan Azizah, who is also the Bandar Tun Razak MP, visited SK Sg Besi, SJK(C) Kwong Hon and SJK(T) Sg Besi, engaging directly with pupils, many of whom were stepping into school for the first time.

In a Facebook statement, he said the children's excitement reflected not only the hopes of parents but also the confidence of teachers and aspirations for the nation's future.

"Schools are not just places to gain knowledge, but also spaces for shaping character, discipline and identity."

He added that education remains a national priority and called for collaboration among the government, parents and educators.

"A strong partnership among all parties ensures that children receive comprehensive support. With quality education rooted in values and humanity, we are confident of nurturing a generation that is knowledgeable, virtuous and ready to face challenges with courage and confidence."

Earlier on Facebook, Anwar welcomed students nationwide, with special greetings for Year 1 pupils starting their educational journey.

He reminded parents to guide their children's learning through prayers and positive examples.

The academic calendar for national and government-aided schools resumed this month after previous adjustments due to Covid-19.

Yesterday marked the start of the term for Group B schools in Johor, Malacca, Negeri Sembilan, Pahang, Perak, Perlis, Penang, Sabah, Sarawak, Selangor and the Federal Territories of Kuala Lumpur, Labuan and Putrajaya.

Meanwhile, Group A schools in Kedah, Kelantan and Terengganu, which began classes a day earlier for nearly one million students, reported a smooth start. – *By Harith Kamal*