

**Abolishment Of Miscellaneous Fees For Schoolchildren Meaningful - National PTA  
Bernama  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The National Parent-Teacher Association has described the abolishment of the miscellaneous fees for primary and secondary students from the next school session as a very meaningful gift for the people.

Its president Assoc Prof Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan said this measure, the first in the country's education history, showed that the government was really sensitive to the needs of the people.

Currently, students in primary and secondary schools are required to pay RM24.50 and RM33.50 respectively for co-curriculum, internal test papers, Malaysian Schools Sports Council fee and insurance premium.

"The abolishment of these fees means, it's free education for primary and secondary students.

"It means the government finances everything, without sponsorship from parents and the public. This shows that we really want to give education to our citizens," Mohd Ali told Bernama, here Friday.

When tabling the 2012 Budget in parliament today, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced that primary and secondary education at government schools would be free from the next school session in 2012, with the abolishment of the fees involving an allocation of RM150 million.

Najib said this was to ensure access to quality and affordable education for all Malaysian children irrespective of their socio-economic background, so as to provide them with a brighter future.

Chairman of Yayasan Guru Malaysia Berhad Tan Sri Alimuddin Mohd Dom said the government's decision to provide schooling assistance of RM100 to all primary and secondary students from Year One to Form Five was something new and would have a big impact on the low-income group.

The former director-general of education said the government had kept its promise of preparing a "people's welfare" budget to lessen their burden from the rising cost of living.

Alimuddin said the development allocation of RM1.9 billion for the Education Ministry could enable it to build new schools, especially in areas like Kuala Lumpur and Penang where many of the existing schools were overcrowded.

He also commended the government's move of providing RM1 billion through a special fund for the construction, improvement and maintenance of schools as he believed many rural and remote schools would benefit from this.

President of the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations (Fomca) Datuk N.

Marimuthu also praised the abolishment of the miscellaneous school fees as it would lessen the burden of parents, especially those with many children.

He said the budget this time really cared for the people's needs, especially in coping with the rising cost of living.

President of the Federation of Peninsula Malay Students (GPMS) Jais Abdul Karim said this year's budget showed the government's earnestness in developing human capital and boosting education for the people.

"We welcome the 2012 Budget as it is seen to be more people-friendly to ensure a brighter future for all Malaysians," he said.

Jais said the government was really sensitive to the people's lot as demonstrated by it giving a schooling assistance of RM100 to 5.3 million Year One to Form Five students each.

"I'm sure parents with financial problems to fend for the family feel much relieved with this good news," he said.

On programmes to instil and develop innovation in schools and public higher learning institutions, as stated in the 2012 Budget, he said students with the inclination to come up with new ideas would be more creative and innovative.

"The young intellectuals and inventors will be able to bring their ideas to a higher level with such programmes," he added.

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