

**Peninsula Schools Will Receive RM100 School Aid With Immediate Effect -
Muhyiddin
Bernama
November 10, 2011**

KUALA LANGAT, Nov 10 (Bernama) -- The RM100 aid for students which was announced in the 2012 Budget, will be deposited into the accounts of schools in the peninsula with immediate effect, said Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

Muhyiddin, who is also Education Minister, said for schools in Sabah and Sarawak, the payment will be made at the latest by next week.

However, he said the payment will be for Year One to Year Five and Form One to Form Four students of the current school session.

He said for students enrolling into Year One and Form One next year, the money would be disbursed in January after the students concerned had registered in their respective schools as this would make it easier to facilitate payment.

"Early payment for them (Year One and Form One in the 2012 school session) will be difficult as there could be cases of changing schools," he told reporters after meeting Matriculation lecturers and students at Banting Matriculation College here Thursday.

Muhyiddin said the disbursement would be deposited into the Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN) accounts of the schools and that those which did not have BSN accounts had agreed to open one temporarily.

He said the schools would handle the distribution of the aid either to the parents or students.

He said more than five million students were eligible for the aid including 5,061,574 students of national and national-type schools and 313,373 students from national and state religious schools.

Also eligible are 125,465 students of private schools and 32,235 students of Mara Junior Science Colleges and the Royal Military College.

Muhyiddin said all students were eligible to get the aid irrespective of the family background as it was meant to alleviate the burden of parents in making preparations for their children for the next school year.

Touching on the monthly allowance of matriculation students which is only RM250 now, Muhyiddin said the government was studying a proposal to raise the allowance and had in principle agreed to it in view of the rising cost of living now.

"If we were to follow the payment made for other pre-university courses which is usually around RM400 a month, we will need an allocation of RM50 million.

Asked about the stiff competition for university places between pre-university students at

matriculation colleges and universities themselves, Muhyiddin admitted that such a thing was happening and that the courses at universities sometimes was not being communicated to the Education Ministry.

He added that the Education Ministry would be raising the matter with the Higher Education Ministry so as to ensure no student who was qualified was denied the opportunity of getting a university education.

Muhyiddin also extended his condolences to the family of Adrian Jay Pereira, the Malaysian student who was slashed to death in a robbery incident outside his rented house in Malang, East Java, Indonesia on Monday.

He said Malaysia had asked Indonesia to conduct a thorough probe into the murder and bring the perpetrators to justice.

Adrian, 23, was a third year medical student at Universiti Brawijaya, in Malang.

---BERNAMA

Copyright © 2011 BERNAMA

Source: <http://www.bernama.com/bernama/v5/newsindex.php?id=625983>