

Early payout of RM100 student aid, says DPM
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PORT DICKSON, Oct 15 — Putrajaya will begin paying out in December the RM100 individual aid for students that was announced under Budget 2012, Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said today.

Muhyiddin said the early payment had been approved by the prime minister even though the allocation was made under next year's Budget.

When tabling Budget 2012 in Parliament last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak promised cash handouts, more money for civil servants, schools and a fund for "high-impact development" projects as part of his measures to put cash in the pockets of voters ahead of a general election expected soon.

Among others, the prime minister pledged cash assistance in the form of one-off RM500 payments to all households with monthly incomes below RM3,000, schooling assistance of RM100 for all primary and secondary students from Year 1 to Form 5 as well as RM200 book vouchers for all Malaysian students in public and private local institutions of higher learning, matriculation and Form 6 students.

Last week, Muhyiddin dismissed claims that Najib had tabled an "election budget" to pave the way for a general election that is expected within the first half of 2012.

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