

**Sabah Government Welcome Najib's Initiated SPP1M
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SANDAKAN, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- The State government welcomed the setting up of the Skim Prihatin Pendidikan 1Malaysia (SPP1M) announced by the Prime Minister to assist students at the tertiary level to obtain additional study loans.

Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman expressed gratitude to Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak on behalf of the State Government and the people in Sabah for introducing yet another programme that really benefit the people.

Speaking to reporters after presenting the early schooling assistance to pupils at SK Batu Putih Baru here today, he was confident that the Barisan Nasional (BN) Federal Government has more programmes for the people in the pipeline.

Najib in announcing the latest scheme of assistance said the Government realised that parents were pressured due to rising cost of higher education for their children, hence the SPP1M was introduced as an additional funding with the loans limited to RM150,000 for a medical specialist courses and RM100,000 for critical courses chosen.

The SPP1M loan acts as a top-up to the existing National Higher Education Corporation Fund (PTPTN) loan for students pursuing their bachelor's degree or master's in certain fields.

It would be implemented in two stages - during the second quarter of 2013 for entry into local universities and in June for twinning programmes and further studies abroad.

Earlier, Musa said the RM100 cash assistance for schoolchildren was a promise fulfilled by the Government after Najib had announced it in the National 2013 Budget.

"So I am representing the Prime Minister and BN Government to fulfill our promise," he said.

According to him, the people in Sabah continued to enjoy many benefits introduced by the Government due to the good relationship between the Federal and State Government.

Meanwhile, Musa also approved all the requests submitted by SK Batu Putih Baru's principal and Parent Teacher Association to repair the basic amenities in the school.

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