



Liew receiving the scholarship from Musa yesterday.

Scholarship boost for aspiring doctor

BP 14-06-2012 A2

KOTA KINABALU: Syvester Liew has always aspired to be a doctor, but there were times when he felt it would remain a mere dream.

That however changed when Liew received a call from Yayasan Sabah informing him that he is among 25 deserving students who would receive the Sabah Excellence Scholarship Awards.

"I am so grateful and the scholarship has lightened my parents' burden to pay for my education fees," he said when met at the scholarship presentation ceremony by Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman at the Tun Mustapha Tower auditorium here yesterday.

Of course it was not just pure luck for him, as he has always been a straight A student and was named the best achiever in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia examination last year for his school, SMK Kota Belud Dua.

The 18-year-old son of a church caretaker and housewife said he was initially worried that he might not be able to pursue

higher education due to financial constraint.

Liew, who scored 12As in SPM, is currently undertaking a basic science programme at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) and hope to be a doctor to improve the health services in the state.

Another recipient Janice Junie Lim had a change of heart, as she switched from medicine to economy.

"I wanted to be a doctor but after consulting my mother, I decided to change my major to economy. Of course doctor has good perspective but I do not think I can deal with blood and syringes," the 18-year-old explained.

The former SM Tshung Tsin Sabah student scored 12As in her SPM and is currently doing her A-Level at the Taylor's College.

Janice said her father, who is a senior assistant at the Land and Survey Department, and mother, a vice principal at SM St Francis Convent, are her biggest inspirations.

"They basically gave me the

freedom to choose what I want to do in life. I was in Science stream during my secondary school years but I also took up Economics and found it was an interesting subject," she said.

Even now, the teenager is very excited about becoming an economist for the country in the future.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, who presented the scholarship to the recipients, said the government is committed in improving the education system in the state, as the children today are the country's future leaders.

"We are developing Sandakan as an education hub so our children need not go elsewhere to pursue their higher learning. We are a responsible government and we care for our children's future, they are our future leaders," he said.

To the students, Musa said, "You must study, work hard and be disciplined. If you practise these three, it is not impossible for you to excel in your studies."