

Govt bridging education divide — CM

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KOTA KINABALU: The State Government, according to Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman, is very supportive of education development and will continue to work closely with the Federal Government to ensure there are sufficient schools and institutes of higher education in Sabah.

In order for Sabah to play a positive role in the nation's development, the state will require a workforce that is knowledgeable, he said at SJK(C) Chung Hwa Likas Culture Nite here yesterday.

"To achieve this, schools play a crucial role in early education development, followed by higher

institutes of education," Musa said in his speech which was delivered by Deputy Chief Minister cum Resource Development & Information Technology Minister Datuk Dr Yee Moh Chai.

To this end, Musa said, the State Government has given out millions in allocation annually to independent and national type Chinese schools as well as mission schools and added that SRJK Chung Hwa Likas is one of the recipients benefitting from this government policy.

"We are also thankful to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak who made the announcement during the 2012 Federal budget to allocate RM100

million each to Chinese, Tamil and mission schools as well as Mara institutes.

"These initiatives clearly demonstrates both the Federal and State government's sensitivity to the needs of the various types of schools in the effort to uplift the overall level of education in the country," he stressed.

The State government also aims to bridge the regional divide in places where higher education is not available, and for this reason, Sabah has developed an education hub in Sandakan, which is now offering courses in sustainable agriculture under Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), with other institutions coming soon,

he added.

Touching on SJK(C) Chung Hwa Likas Culture Nite, Musa said the state Government is proud to note that this school has continued to excel in academic and extracurricular activities.

This, he pointed out, was due to a combination of a good school administration, hard work of the board of directors and the strong commitment from the Parents and Teachers Association (PTA), each component acting its part with diligence.

The ability of all to work together and complement one another for the general good of the school is an enabler for pupils to

do well in their studies, he said.

"We all know that education requires all types of input for it to flourish, including the need for quality staff and tools that will facilitate the teaching and learning process.

SJK(C) Chung Hwa Likas, an establishment under the Chinese Chamber of Commerce, is faced with having to keep up with the rapid changes in information technology that influences teaching and learning, and also needs to streamline itself with the mainstream education policies," he said adding that these are just some factors that increase financial pressures on the school board and the PTA.