

Concerted efforts needed to help underprivileged kids

NST 25.1.2014 3

By ERIC BAGANG

KOTA KINABALU: A concerted effort from all quarters is needed to help underprivileged children to get education.

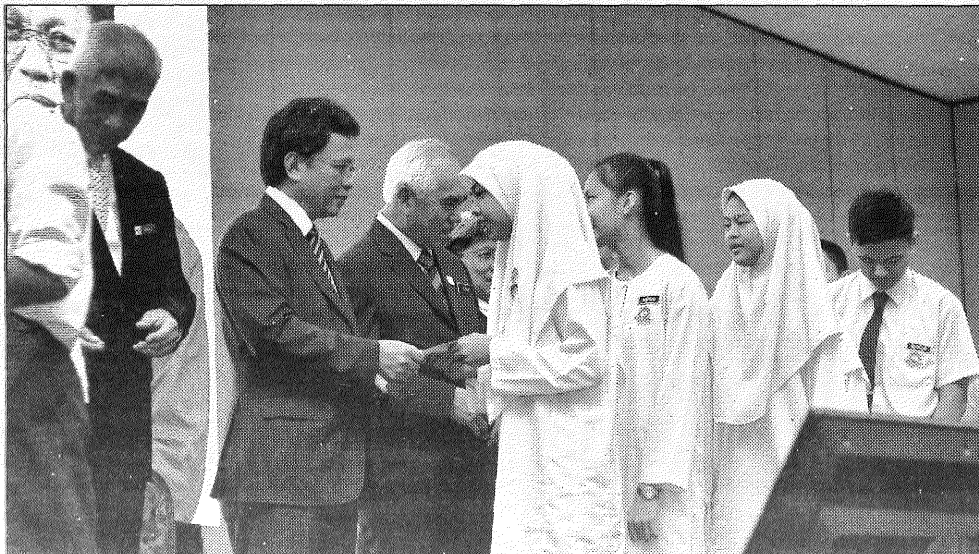
Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Shafie Apdal said that the government has taken the initiative but it needs support from parents, education institutions and academics to make it a success.

He said that the government wants to help every Sabahan to obtain higher education especially those who cannot afford it.

Speaking to reporters after presenting one-off scholarship to 1,000 Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) students and 300 secondary school students at the university campus here yesterday, he said that the fund was prepared by Yayasan Sabah.

"Yayasan Sabah plays a very important role in this initiative in terms of monetary assistance therefore we want to make sure Yayasan Sabah can restructure its resources to strengthen its finances so it can further help the people particularly in the health and education sectors," he said.

Meanwhile, Yayasan Sabah director, Datuk Jamalul Kiram Mohd Zakaria said that the organisation will continue to support the government's effort to provide education opportunities to all Sabahans.



Shafie (second left) presenting cash assistance to one of the secondary school students.



Shafie speaking to the students.

According to him, since 1968, Yayasan Sabah has given 19,093 university students in various fields of studies involving a total amount of RM327.12 million, while some 73,245 secondary school students have bene-

fited from sponsorship worth RM112.09 within the same period.

Each of the 1,000 UMS student received RM1,000 cash assistance while the 300 secondary school students received RM200 each.

Also present were UMS

Vice Chancellor, Prof Datuk Dr D Kamarudin D Mudin; UMS Board of Directors chairman, KY Mustafa; Education and Innovation Minister, Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob; and Education and Innovation Assistant Minister, Jenifer Lasimbang.