



'Give varsities more funds for research, innovation'

HOLISTIC APPROACH: Budget should address needs of education sector, say experts

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E DUCATIONISTS have suggested that the government look for a more holistic and well-rounded approach on the needs of the education sector in the 2013 Budget.

The 2013 Budget will be tabled on Sept 28 by Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

Universiti Putra Malaysia vice-chancellor Datuk Dr Radin Umar Radin Sohaqi has proposed that the government increase funds for the field of research and innovation at higher learning institutes.

"The government should consider increasing a substantial percentage of funds for research and innovation for the use of students in universities because it would encourage knowledge development and knowledge sharing."

He said funds for the research and innovation method and outcome can also be further developed with the participation of industries in the research.

"With wider participation from industries, our students would be motivated and would strive for excellence in their field of study."

He said Malaysia was still lagging in innovations and researches in universities compared other developing nations.

National Parent-Teacher Association Collaborative Council president Datuk Mohd Ali Hassan called for for the continuation of the RM200 Malaysia Book Voucher (BB1M) scheme.

"Many underprivileged students and their parents have benefited from this effort by the government. I hope it would be made an annual effort."

He said a special incentive should also be given to parents in relation to learning needs and requirements of their children.

"I assume parents should also be given a specific amount to be

able to provide quality education for their children... for example, for the use of special classes and tuition."

"The budget should resist financial handouts as it creates dependency rather than self reliance."

Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria
Universiti
Kebangsaan
Malaysia's Institute
of Ethnic Studies
research fellow

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's Institute of Ethnic Studies research fellow Datuk Dr Denison Jayasooria, however, was of the view that a direct specific assistance should be given towards self help, self empowerment and self reliance of students.

"The budget should resist financial handouts, like the RM200 cash voucher for students, as it creates dependency rather than self reliance. Therefore, it must be avoided."

Instead, Denison suggested that

a special allocation be made available for the teaching of Bahasa Malaysia at vernacular schools.

This is to ensure that not only every pupil in these schools passes the national language examination at the Ujian Pencapaian Sekolah Rendah (UPSR) level, but also secured a credit.

Denison also proposed for special grants to be provided to voluntary organisations.

This move, he said, would enable them to have the necessary funds to hire trained graduates in social work.

Denison said he believed such a move would lead to the creation of job opportunities for fresh graduates as well as ensuring a higher degree of professionalism applied in services to disadvantaged communities.