

## MEDIA STATEMENT

### YAYASAN BANK RAKYAT PROVIDES RM 3.1 MILLION FOR EARLY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE

Kuala Lumpur, 9 December 2020 - Yayasan Bank Rakyat (YBR) has set aside RM3.1 million for 'Early Education Assistance' programme ("Bantuan Awal Pengajian") to help students who intend to continue their education to a degree level.

All selected Public Institutions of Higher Learning (IPTA) for this programme, have given their full cooperation to ensure that the needed assistance be provided to students from the B40 income group, enabling them to continue studies, at the diploma and university levels.

Concerned with the constraints faced by these university students, the Minister of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development (MEDAC), YB. Dato Sri Dr. Hj Wan Junaidi Bin Tuanku Jaafar officiated a handover session of the Early Education Assistance, at the Bank Rakyat Twin-Tower today. Also present at the event were Datuk Seri Dr. Noraini Ahmad, Minister of Higher Education as well as representatives from the 12 selected universities namely UUM, UniMAP, USM, UPSI, UPM, UKM, UTEM, UTM, UMP, UMK, Unisza & UiTM.

At the event, the Minister affirmed that this initiative was in line with the Government's aspiration to develop and produce more human capital in the country, especially in the skilled labour and professional sectors, with the aim of increasing the level of income for the people.

Students who are given the opportunity to obtain education under this programme will also attain the indirect benefit of potentially becoming

entrepreneurs. For this, they would be able to get assistance and advisory services on how to start businesses, from agencies under MEDAC.

The Minister added, students who receive this early assistance will not be required to make repayment of the amount received. They will be able to use the money to commence studies, while waiting for potential sponsorship or other forms of financial assistance.

According to the Chairman of Bank Rakyat Foundation, Datuk Nazir Hussin Akhtar Hussin, this Early Education Assistance Programme is one of the initiatives to assist new students, in line with the foundation's objectives to help improve socio-economic levels, through education. He added, an initial amount of RM1,000 will be given on a 'one-off' basis to more than 3,100 new students to further their education.

It is hoped that this effort will continue, to assist more students in need. This in turn, will indirectly give them the encouragement to continue studying at higher levels in order to elevate their economic status.

**MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES**