New ministry to improve Sabah education system – CM

By Shalina R

KOTA KINABALU: The State Government launched the new Education Innovation Ministry to improve the education system in Sabah, said Chief Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Shafie Apdal.

Shafie said however this cannot be done without the help of educational institutions, parents and the students themselves.

He reiterated that one of the efforts to help the less fortunate families was the Yayasan Sabah One-off Educational Assistance and Secondary School Back to School Assistance programme presented to secondary school students here yesterday.

"It must be a collective effort and it must be a coordinated one, a very comprehensive approach not only done by the government.

"Of course, we will be the prime mover, the engine for these kinds of success to ensure that we can have better facilities for our young Sabahan to have a better education. But we need the support and help from institutions, teachers, lecturers, as well as parents, and the students themselves too.

"If it is done as a mass movement, it will enable our children to be successful in education. It cannot be done in a solo, independently. It must be a collective effort.

"I am confident that we can help the community that are not well-off, especially the community that are not only in the urban areas but also in rural areas," he added.

Shafie said Yayasan Sabah must be strengthened to help the state uplifting education and health, and it has been one of the government's backbones for financial initiatives to fund the state's education and health portfolios.

Therefore, he said, in terms of restructuring our forestry management, Yayasan Sabah should be empowered for this purpose, amongst others.

Some 1000 UMS students and 300 secondary school students from throughout the Kota Kinabalu area received the Yayasan Sabah One-Off assistance at the event here yesterday.

According to Yayasan Sabah director Datuk Jamirul Kiram Mohd Zakaria, 19,939 students had benefited from the Yayasan Sabah Higher Learning Sponsorship or bursaries in various fields amounting to RM237.12 million.

He added 73,245 had received RM112.99 million in secondary school sponsorship or bursaries.

Meanwhile, Jamirul said RM10 million One-Off assistance was introduced last October 31, 2018.

"Until now, RM766.5 million educational sponsorship for the secondary and higher learning sponsorship have been given to the children of Sabah," he said.

The RM1,000 assistance was presented to 1000 UMS students yesterday whilst a RM300 assistance were presented to 300 students in the B40 category from 10 schools around Kota Kinabalu.

Other languages on signs cannot be bigger

KOTA KINABALU: Further discussion must be held before any decision is made regarding allowing the Institute of Language and Literature to take action against violation of Malay language usage. Assistant Minister to the Chief Minister Ariffin Asgpal said the time had yet to come for DBP to take action against such violations and that enforcement could instead be implemented by local authorities with DBP advice.

"There are some entities or agencies that put up signs in various locations, and I understand that the agencies themselves do not put up signs as they are in the hands of local authorities. In this case Kota Kinabalu City Hall (DBKK), where those signs display characters in other languages," Arifin told reporters at the DBK city hall yesterday.

"This is not encouraged even though we receive many tourists from China, Korea and Japan, because other characters cannot be larger than alphabets in the Malay language," said Arifin, who is also minister responsible for DBKK.

Arifin stressed it was a violation to print other characters larger than those in the Malay language, quoting a previous incident that went viral and those involved were warned against committing a similar mistake.

Arifin affirmed that DBKK would not compromise on such instances.

Stalking may be made a criminal offence – Liew

PUTRAJAYA: The government may introduce a law to make stalking a criminal offence, said Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Liew Vui Keong.

It would be in line with various stakeholders, including NGOs and members of the public, he said in a statement yesterday.

"Stalking can cause victims to undergo emotional disturbance and disrupt their life routines, affecting their jobs and responsibility to their families," he said.

RM8.3 mln contraband cigarettes, alcoholic drinks, firecrackers seized

By Elton Gomes

KOTA KINABALU: The Marine Operations Force (MOF) has seized about RM8.3 million worth of contraband alcoholic drinks, cigarettes and firecrackers at Kampung Botoi in Tamparuli on Wednesday.

Sabo Police Commissioner Datuk Omer Mammoh told a press conference here yesterday that all the undeclared items were seized from a store after police obtained warrants.

About 114,560 boxes of cigarettes of numerous brands such as Astro, Era, Apache, Gudang Garam, with a market value of RM90,000, were also seized.

The items were found to have been sold without licences and without custom stamps.

RM1 million worth of firecrackers were also seized.

Police also seized 2,180 boxes of alcoholic drinks such as Hotlandia Extra Stout, Holandia, Carlsberg, Tiger, Label 5, Chivas and Jack Daniel worth RM1.2 million, he said, adding that about RM8.335 million worth of numerous brands of firecrackers were also confiscated.

Three individuals, in their 20s and 40s, were detained by MOF while a van worth RM90,000, believed used by the suspects, were also confiscated, said Omer.

The case is currently being investigated under Section 135(1)(d) of the Customs Act 1967 (amended 2018) and Explosive Act 1957.