

# Parents thankful for ADAM50, say will help their children

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**KUALA LUMPUR** — The Amanah Dana Anak Malaysia 2050 (ADAM50) fund will benefit children as it can be used to invest in their future education, first-time parents said yesterday.

The fund was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak in Budget 2018. All Malaysians born between Jan 1, 2018 and 2022 will each be gifted RM200 worth of unit trusts in Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) or Amanah Saham 1Malaysia (AS1M).

First-time mother Siti Noraini Rasid, 25, said she is extremely thankful for the scheme and that it would benefit her son greatly in the future.

"It is a wonderful thing that he has his own savings the moment he was born.

"I'm happy and glad for him and will do my best to contribute to the scheme as well. At the end of the day, the savings can be used for his education," she said at the Permodalan Nasional Berhad ADAM50 certificate presentation at Hospital Kuala Lumpur here yesterday.

Another mother, 26-year-old Nor Fatimah Wad Tahir, said ADAM50 would help to educate her daughter on the importance of saving early and how to handle her finances responsibly when she grows up.

"It may not seem much now but RM200 is a good start and will even motivate parents to invest early in our children," she said.

Nor Syaidatul Azwa Samsudin, 22, who is also a first-time mother, said ADAM50 would be another means of support for her newborn daughter.

"Being a first-time parent, I'm always concerned on how can I contribute more to the well-being of my child.

"The scheme acts as another financial means that she can rely on in the future and I'm really grateful for that," she said.

Syaidatul was among eight other mothers whose children received ADAM50 certificates at the hospital.

The amount can only be withdrawn when the child turns 18.

The scheme is part of a cooperation between Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) and the government as a means to help the coming generation.

The scheme will run from 2018 to 2022 with the total amount to RM560 million and will benefit some 2.8 million Malaysians.

PNB president and chief executive officer Datuk Abdul Rahman Ahmad said he wished for parents to get excited about the scheme and do their best to participate as well.

"The scheme also means to teach parents about investment culture and encourage them to invest in their children's future.

"We encourage all parents whose children are eligible to participate," he said.

When asked on whether Najib would continue the scheme after 2022, Rahman said PNB would have to see the participation in the scheme before deciding further.

PNB gave away ADAM50 certificates at 30 hospitals nationwide yesterday.



Mothers with their newborn babies during handing over of ADAM50 certificates in Kuala Lumpur Hospital. The mothers (from left) Nor Fatimah Mad Tahir, Nurfarahin Abd Jalil, Nur Syaidatul Azwa Samsudin, Nor Syazana Abd Aziz, and Siti Norain Rasid. — Picture by Ahmad Zamzahuri

Meanwhile, a total of 24,038 newborn babies in Kedah have benefited from the state government's Childbirth Incentive Scheme (IKA) started in 2015 with RM100 given to each child.

State Women and Family Development, Social Welfare, Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry, and Entrepreneur Development Committee chairman Datuk Suraya Yaacob said this amounted to an allocation of RM2.4 million.

"Babies who meet the set conditions will get an RM80 voucher for baby products and RM20 in a National Education Savings Scheme (SSPN-i) account.

"However, there are still many parents who have not applied, maybe because they do not know how. They can get the application forms from the Social Welfare Department or any maternity hospital within six months," she told reporters yesterday.

Earlier, Suraya paid a visit to the Sultanah Bahiyah Hospital in Alor Star to present the IKA scheme donations to five newly-born baby girls and four baby boys in conjunction with the 2018 New Year celebrations.

Meanwhile, Cristina Som Sumsak, 25, from Kuala Nerang said she did not expect her second child to be born on New Year's Day as she was due the day earlier.

"I gave birth to my son at 3.30am and am thankful that all went well even though my baby was born a day later than expected," she said.

Siti Najwa Zainon, 21, from Mergong, said she had planned to save in the National Education Savings Scheme for the future of her eldest child's education.

"I am very happy that my daughter was safely born at 5am, making her a New Year baby because she was actually due next week on Jan 8," she said. — Bernama



Asmah Kayae and Nur Shatila Osman chat at KPJ Hospital Bandar Perda, Bukit Mertajam, yesterday. — Picture by Sayuti Zainudin



Siti Norain Rasid and her husband Muhammad Fauzi Ridwan view their newborn baby boy at Hospital Kuala Lumpur. — Picture by Ahmad Zamzahuri