

Better, brighter vision for Lembah Pantai kids

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KUALA LUMPUR: The learning process in school can be affected when students have poor vision.

Therefore, it is important and necessary for students to get their vision tested and corrected so they are able to follow their lessons in school. However, for the B40 group, doing so is difficult as they may not have the means to do so.

In view of this, Tenaga Nasional Bhd (TNB) took the initiative to identify and help students from the B40 group in the Lembah Pantai constituency to improve their vision in a pilot project called 'Better Brighter Vision'.

Under this project, students from five schools in the constituency were selected to receive spectacles. The spectacles were handed over at two events, held at SK Bukit Pantai and SMK Seri Pantai.

There were 94 recipients from SMK Bangsar, SMK Seri Pantai (155), SMK Bukit Bandaraya (59), SK Bukit Pantai (191) and SK Bukit Bandaraya (101).

An assistant teacher at SK Bukit Pantai, Nor Kritini Ismail, said parents of pupils with poor eyesight will consult the class teacher to change the seating arrangement for their child.

"However, we might have difficulties on this as some pupils are much taller than their peers. We are grateful for this assistance as the pupils can now sit anywhere in the classroom with clear view of the board," she said.

"The teachers can focus on the lessons and the pupils will also pay more attention to completing the schoolwork," she said, adding that this was the first time that this assistance was extended to the school.

SK Bukit Pantai principal Shahrudin Eusop said when pupils get their new glasses, it will smoothen the teaching and learning process.

"The aid would also alleviate the burden of the parents. We hope the parents and pupils will appreciate this help," he said, expressing hope that TNB would continue with more charitable activities to help students and families from the B40 group.

“We are also inspired by TNB’s slogan, Better Brighter Vision, and this will be a catalyst for the school to realise the school’s transformation programme leading into 2025,” he said.

Rosidah Sulaiman’s second child Nur Shafiqah Muhd Muslim, 13, was among the recipients.

Rosidah, 40, who works as a cleaner in Bangsar said most of the household income of her family was used up for groceries and children’s expenses.

“A resident of the People’s Housing Project (PPR) Kerinchi, her husband works at a motorcycle workshop and they could not spare the extra money to buy spectacles for Shafiqah.

Meanwhile Shafiqah said her eyesight started to change when she was in Year Six.

“I did not inform my mother. I just asked to move to the front row. At times, I felt a bit dizzy,” she said.

Another recipient, Muhammad Hasnil Jumadi, 13, from SMK Bukit Bandaraya said he was selected by his teacher to get his vision checked.

“I only knew of my condition because I could not read the alphabets on the chart,” he said.

“My friends and I were delighted to resume classroom lessons with a sharper vision,” he said.

For Mahalaxmi Kovelan, 15, she noticed that her vision had changed in November last year.

“I like to read books since young. It is my favourite pastime to read adventure books even in dim light,” she said

She lives at the Sri Pahang Flats with her mother, who works at a grocery store.

“My father has passed away and I have a disabled sister who could not walk since birth.”

During the handover of the spectacles, Lembah Pantai member of parliament Ahmad Fahmi Mohamed Fadzil expressed his gratitude for TNB’s assistance in reaching out to the public especially in Bangsar, Kampung Kerinchi and Pantai Dalam.

“Based on the screening result; I was made to understand that out of 308 recipients for secondary pupils, the highest lens power was up to 600 and 475 (primary pupils). This means that all

this while they had to endure discomfort during lessons," he said.

Fahmi said the aid was beyond helping students to improve their vision, but also provided a glimmer of hope for a better future.

"The reality is some parents cannot afford to buy spectacles for their children even if they wanted to because they are struggling to make ends meet," he said.

Meanwhile, TNB chief corporate officer Datuk Wira Roslan Ab Rahman said this pilot project of 'Better Brighter Vision', in collaboration with the Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital, was aimed at helping students around the TNB headquarters in Bangsar.

"TNB had always been in the forefront of powering up the nation and we would also want to bring cheer to the recipients" he said.

"We embarked on this activity as having a clear vision is important to lead normal daily lives," he said.

"We also hope to expand this programme further. We regarded these five schools as adoptive schools to us," he said.

Roslan said at the initial stage, about 4,289 students were identified in three stages of selection process handled by Tun Hussein Onn Eye Hospital.

From this, 600 students from underprivileged families in primary and secondary levels were selected to receive the free spectacles.

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