



22 APR, 2025

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Borneo Post (KK), Malaysia



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KUCHING: Bintulu Port Holdings Berhad (BPHB) hopes to make its scholarship programme an annual initiative to benefit more Sarawakians in the years to come.

This year, ten outstanding students were selected under the inaugural BPHB Scholarship Programme launched through the Bintulu Port Foundation.

The recipients were chosen from over 500 applicants based on academic merit, leadership qualities, and socio-economic background.

BPHB group chief executive officer Ruslan Abdul Ghani said the company aims to contribute more in the future and gradually increase the number of recipients.

"We hope this will become our flagship programme. Every year, we plan to allocate part of our profits to give back to society, especially in helping students pursue higher education. It is our plan to have a yearly allocation for scholarships.

"At the moment, we are focusing on these ten students. We are confident they will study hard and one day return to serve Bintulu Port and the state," he told reporters after the awards presentation ceremony held at the Hilton



Ruslan (back row, sixth from left) during the scholarship awards ceremony. — Photo by Roystein Emmor

Hotel here today.

Earlier in his speech, Ruslan said the scholarship reflects the group's belief in the potential of Sarawakian youths, particularly those who need support to build a brighter future.

Of the ten recipients, three are from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas), two from Universiti Teknologi Sarawak (UTS), and one each from

Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM), Universiti Malaya (UM), Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM), Universiti Malaysia Perlis (UNIMAP), and Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN).

According to the group, this first cohort reflects Sarawak's rich cultural and ethnic diversity, with recipients from Iban, Malay, Chinese, Kenyah, and Melanau backgrounds.

"They are pursuing vital fields

of study, from engineering and science to social sciences, finance and business, all crucial to Sarawak's socio-economic growth," it said.

Applicants were required to have at least 6A's in SPM or a CGPA of 3.50 for diploma or foundation holders. Selection also considered leadership potential, with priority given to students from the B40 income group.