

TELANG Usan Assemblyman Dennis Ngau (2nd left) handing over a school bag to SK Long Loyang, Tinjar Baram.

Mykasih Foundation schools' help well received in Baram

LONG LOYANG, BARAM: Primary and secondary schools located in rural longhouses in Ulu Baram welcome all efforts that could assist students with their school needs.

Telang Usan Assemblyman Dennis Ngau pointed out parents of these rural students who do not have steady source of income and coupled with having many schooling children need whatever form of assistance their kids could receive.

"I am glad that there are individuals among us Malaysians blessed with abundance blessing from God who are caring and willing to take the trouble to form charity organisation in order to have a platform to deliver assistance to the needy among us," remarked Dennis at a ceremony to hand over aid donated by Mykasih Foundation at SK Long Loyang, Tinjar yesterday.

Mykasih Foundation is a Kuala Lumpur -based charity organisation founded by Dialog Group Berhad Executive Chairman Tan Sri Dr Ngau Boon Keat and his wife Puan Sri Jean Ngau.

Dennis expressed his thanks and appreciation to Deputy Chief Minister Datuk Amar Douglas Uggah Embas for proposing Telang Usan constituency to be part of this year's recipients of the school aid and the Baram Education Office for their assitance in providing the data. He explained not all schools in his constituency were given the opportunity to receive the aid this time around because of the limited number of schools approved by the Mykasih committee.

"I submitted the names of all the schools within my constituency but was told to reduce the number so that the aid could be distributed throughout the state.

"Being mindful of the various ethnics found in Telang Usan, I therefore requested that at least three primary schools to be included in the recipients list namely SK Long Loyang (Kenyah), SK Long Bemang (Kayan) and SK Long Luteng (Penan).

"I am glad our proposal was accepted and each of the students received a school bag, school uniform and writing materials," said Dennis.

He promised that if the assistance was available again next year, other schools would be proposed.

Dennis hoped that the initiative would spur successful and educated locals to come foward to assist schools located in their own villages. On the Mykasih Foundation, Dennis said the charity organisation was established in April 2004 with the aims to help poor and needy Malaysians through food aid, education and training programmes.

He said Mykasih started with

a pilot project involving 25 families back in December 2008 and to date had reached out to more than 233,000 families in over 400 locations nationwide, out of which 13,000 were primary and secondary school student benefiuciaries under the Mykasih "Love My School" bursary scheme.

Mykasih Foundation has chanelled RM200 million to targetted beneficiaries nationwide via the Mykasih Cashless Payment System. Mykasih Foundation's community programmes include workshops on financial literacy, health awareness and basic health screening, skilled based training, entrepreneurship and income generation courses as well as job training and placement.

Mykasih also works with universities and institutions which offer full schoolarship for Mykasih youths.