

ALLOWANCE FOR FORM SIX STUDENTS A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS EDUCATIONAL EQUITY - GPMS

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KUALA LUMPUR—The government's proposal to provide allowances to Form Six students marks a significant paradigm shift and a pragmatic step towards advancing educational equity in Malaysia. Welcoming the move, Federation of Peninsular Malay Students (GPMS) secretary-general Wafiyuddin Musa said the initiative represents more than just financial assistance.

The proposal to provide allowances for Form Six students is seen as a way to recognise Form Six as a prestigious and competitive pathway to higher education. Aligning financial support with the Matriculation Programme could remove the perception of STPM as a “second choice” and encourage more students to choose it confidently. Wafiyuddin highlighted that the allowance would be a strategic investment in human capital and help reduce financial burdens, especially for B40 and M40 families. It would enable students to focus on their studies by covering essential costs such as materials, transport and daily expenses. However, GPMS stressed the need for an inclusive, simple and accessible application process, particularly for rural students, and called for efficient distribution without bureaucracy. They also suggested using existing databases to automate eligibility. The proposal, currently under government consideration, aligns with efforts to restructure pre-university education and improve overall academic quality in Malaysia. Last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is also the Minister of Finance, said the government was looking into providing allowances to Form Six students, similar to those enjoyed by Matriculation Programme students. He said the proposal is in line with the restructuring of pre-university education, following the transfer of Form Six administration from the Ministry of Education to the Ministry of Higher Education.

