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**Fatimah: Two more workplace nurseries coming up next year**



SHOWING THE WAY: Fatimah (second right) being briefed by Mohd Fadzil (fourth right) during a visit to Unimas workplace nursery. Also seen is Social Welfare Department director Noriah Ahmad (third right). — Photo by Muhammad Rais Sanusi

KOTA SAMARAHAN: The state will have five workplace nurseries by January next year.

Minister of Welfare, Women and Family Development Datuk Fatimah Abdullah said Sarawak presently had three registered workplace nurseries while two others were being set up and would be in operation in January next year.

The nurseries were Taska Nur Wiswani at Women Bureau (Petrajaya), Taska Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara in Miri and Taska Yayasanku Sayang at Yayasan Sarawak in Petra Jaya.

“The nurseries at Bangunan Tuanku Haji Bujang at Simpang Tiga and another at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) are being set up,” she told a press conference after attending a briefing and a visit to the Unimas workplace nursery here yesterday.

Fatimah said her ministry welcomed the step taken by Unimas in providing workplace nursery and hoped that more workplace nurseries could be set up in the state as a supporting system to working parents, especially the mothers.

"The government is also assisting by subsidising the nursery fee of RM180 per month to parents earning RM5,000 and below who send their children to these registered nurseries.

"For parents who earn RM900 and below, they are eligible for fee subsidy of RM250 per month, including at Unimas," she said, adding that the subsidy would take effect January next year.

Fatimah also welcomed Unimas' proposal to establish after-school daycare centre in the future for the children of the staff who are in the primary school.

Meanwhile, Unimas' deputy vice-chancellor (Student Affairs and Alumni) Prof Mohd Fadzil Abdul Rahman who was also present, said the setting up of the workplace nursery in the university was in line with the government's call for government agencies to provide such facility for civil servants.

"We have tried our best in providing infrastructure and in terms of compliance (the requirements for the setting up of a workplace nursery) and we have complied about 80 per cent.

"We expect this workplace nursery can accommodate 70 children at any one time and Unimas has prepared a one-off grant of RM50,000 to this nursery. Every year, we will commit RM10,000 as a corporate social responsibility," he said, adding that about 40 children had already been registered with the nursery.

Mohd Fadzil also said that in line with the Health Ministry's effort to promote breast feeding among mothers, Unimas would allow the university staff to take some time off to breast feed their children at the nursery.

He explained that for Unimas workplace nursery, parents with higher pay such as lecturers and officers would be charged RM300 per month for their children between two and four years old, adding that a lower fee would be charged for children between four and six years old.

As of Oct 31 this year, a total of 97 nurseries have been registered with the state Welfare Department, comprising 70 nurseries in institutions, three workplace nurseries, three 1Malaysia nurseries and 21 home-based nurseries.

Source: The Borneo Post

