



50,000 students to receive CERDIK devices by end-May 2021

Digital learning pilot project kicks off in selected schools as part of CERDIK's long-term digital learning development initiative

KUALA LUMPUR, 25 APRIL 2021: CERDIK is a long-term initiative to provide digital access to education, and comprises two key components – accessibility to devices and data connectivity. Working in partnership with the Ministry of Finance (MOF) and Ministry of Education (MOE), the pilot initiative aims to close the digital learning gap for primary and secondary schools in Malaysia and explore digital learning models for future adoption. CERDIK is not a short term, one-off device donation initiative.

Currently, 13,000 devices have been distributed by Government Linked Companies /Government Linked Investment Companies (GLC/GLICs) to various State Education Departments, with more than 1,000 students having already received their devices. Based on current supply chain capacity, CERDIK is targeting for at least 50,000 students to receive their devices by end-May, with the balance 100,000 devices expected to be distributed by end-September 2021. Funding for this pilot project has been generated solely from GLC/GLICs and corporate donors, each with its due governance processes.

All devices have been certified as up-to-date with adequate capacity for software upgrades to serve a student for at least three years of his/her academic journey through school, with the appropriate quality, functionality and safety checks to prevent or minimise mishaps and learning disruptions.

“CERDIK is a digital learning pilot, and this is timely due to the rise of digitalisation in all aspects of society today. Digital transformation is now a prerequisite for the modern age. As we have seen in recent times, COVID-19 has made it clear that digitalisation is indispensable. Virtual learning, for example, was vital in limiting the disruption to school lessons and sustaining the delivery of education around the world,” said Senior Minister of Education, Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin.

He also reassured parents that all CERDIK devices come with the necessary technical support and warranty to minimise interruptions to digital learning.

“COVID-19 has accelerated digital adoption *en masse*, with remote learning increasingly becoming the norm. CERDIK was conceptualised to bridge the socio-economic gap by facilitating digital learning for the lower income households. This pilot project is a great enabler for digital learning, which must be a core component of our children’s education if we were to take advantage of the economic benefits afforded by the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” said Minister of Finance, Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Abdul Aziz.

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Both Ministers thanked the corporate donors whose generous contributions have made the CERDIK pilot programme a reality. They include

- 1) Khazanah Nasional Berhad (KNB) and its group of companies,
- 2) Yayasan PETRONAS (YP),
- 3) Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB) and its group of companies,
- 4) The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and its group of companies and
- 5) Lembaga Tabung Haji.

The initiative has seen a positive response from recipients. Roslaini Rustam was grateful that her daughter, who is a student at Sekolah Kebangsaan Rantau Panjang, received a device. “When teachers were having online classes during the pandemic, we had a problem as there were not enough gadgets to be shared between five siblings. I hope my children will use the device to improve themselves,” she said.

Another parent, Abdul Muslefi Mohd Yusop, whose child also attends Sekolah Kebangsaan Rantau Panjang, thanked all stakeholders involved in the initiative. “We will use this laptop properly for our children in the long term. When I say long term, I mean we will take care of the device and ensure it is in good condition so that other children can use it as well,” he said.

[end]

CERDIK Photos and Videos: Click [HERE](#) to download

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ABOUT CERDIK

CERDIK is a GLC-driven CSR pilot initiative announced in the Budget 2021 to provide digital access to education via accessibility of devices and data connectivity. In partnership with the Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Ministry of Finance (MOF), the initiative is fully funded by Government Linked Companies (GLCs), Government Linked Investment Companies (GLICs), and the private sector and it seeks to enable continuous learning in the new norm and provide education access to the most marginalised school children. The Secretariat of the CERDIK initiative is Yayasan Hasanah, the foundation of Khazanah Nasional Berhad.

For more information and clarification, please email cerdik@hasanah.org.my or visit www.cerdik.org.

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