

Headline	22 recipients have benefited from Antawau Education Fund		
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## 22 recipients have benefited from Antawau Education Fund

**KAPIT:** Twenty two people have benefited from the Antawau Education Fund since its establishment nine years ago.

The latest recipient is 19-year-old Mariana Dina Malong. She received the RM500 financial assistance to further her education from the secretary of the Board of Management of Antawau Education Fund, Bansa Untang at his office here at "Sri Puyu Berhad" yesterday morning.

Mariana's parents hail from Nanga Antawau, one of the remotest Iban settlements in Upper Baleh here. She had her primary education at SK Temenggong Koh, Nanga Antawau, Baleh and completed her SPM (Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia) at SMK Kapit.

She is continuing her studies in "Diploma in Civil Engineering" at "Polytechnic Kuching" and will be there for six semesters.

Earlier, another student, Dubau Elon who is pursuing her studies in "Diploma in land surveying" at the same polytechnic also benefited from the education fund (one off

payment of RM500).

The money will enable the students to pay for the registration fees and the purchase of writing materials.

Corporate businessman, Bangsa Untang who originated from Nanga Antawau has initiated "Antawau Education Fund" in 2003 in an effort to promote quality education to encourage children of Nanga Antawau to pursue quality education.

On 15 July, former Assistant Minister of Finance and Public Utility, Datuk Ambrose Blikau, who was also Katibas State Assemblyman, launched the fund. At that time, he contributed RM10,000 to the fund.

The management committee comprised Temenggong Datuk James Jimbun Punga as the chairman, Bangsa Untang the secretary, Jimmy Jadam the treasurer while the committee members were Tuai Rumah Nabau, Tuai Rumah Laso, Tuai Rumah Langga, Councillor Tuai Rumah Tajai, Penghulu Jampi Raweng and Temenggong Datuk

Kenneth Kanyan.

The first recipient of the fund was Philomena Asin who pursued her studies at Universiti Malaysia Utara. Now, she is working at the Kapit Resident Office.

Bangsa, a former school teacher and former headmaster of SK Sungai Amang, Jalan Selirik here, has advised the students to study hard so that they can further their studies in institutions of higher learning.

"This is my humble way to help my own people. And I believe quality education is the key to success.

"Investment in education will produce quality students who will contribute positively to nation building and eradicate poverty among the rural folk.

"All these years, I am happy to note that students from Nanga Antawau have been performing well and have managed to further their studies in the institutions of higher learning. It is my dream and hope that they will progress and be successful in life," he said.



**BANSA** (second left) presenting the Antawau Education Fund to a recipient, Mariana Dina Malong (second right).