

Chong: PSD to release bursary details soon

KUALA LUMPUR: The Public Service Department (PSD) will be releasing details and guidelines soon for bursary recipients attending local universities following the revised Budget 2016.

Deputy Education Minister Chong Sin Woon said the PSD would reveal the amount of subsistence scholars would receive, the courses they were eligible to take as well as the list of local universities involved.

"All eligible applicants will still be sponsored, but instead of foreign universities, they will be sent to local ones," he said after the Guru Muda 1Malaysia (GM1M) Frog Virtual Learning Environment Awards ceremony at the ministry's Technology Division office here yesterday.

Also present were YTL Communications executive director Datuk Yeoh Seok Hong, Education secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Madinah Mohamad, the ministry's director-general Datuk Seri Dr Khair Mohamad Yusof and GM1M adviser Tan Sri Abd Ghafar Mahmud.

Chong noted that local universities had good standards and equally recognised courses.

The Government, he added, was still committed to sending students overseas should there be enough budget to do so.

"The Government will continue sending



Well done: Chong sharing a light moment with the GM1M award winners as (from second left) Abdul Ghafar, Yeoh, Dr Madinah (in red tudung) and Dr Khair (spotted tie, behind Chong) look on.

students overseas, but with the current economic situation, some cuts are needed," he said.

Last Thursday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, when presenting the recalibrated Budget 2016, announced that the 744 students under the Bursary Graduate Programme would now have to study locally in public or private institutions of higher

learning. The group is from the SPM 2013 batch.

Previously, all students who scored 9A+ and above in the SPM received bursaries from the ministry.

The bursary covered the students' pre-university studies at local institutions, after which they could continue with their first degree either locally or overseas.