

Emancipated Learning 16: The Acceleration and Increasing Funding of PAUD and Equality Education

Jakarta, February 15, 2022 --- The success of the policy breakthrough in managing the Operational School Funds (BOS) funds since 2020 has prompted the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Kemendikbudristek) to re-accelerate and increase funding for education units. Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (Mendikbudristek) Nadiem Anwar Makarim launched the Sixteenth Episode of Emancipated Learning: Acceleration and Increasing Funding for Early Childhood Education (PAUD) and Equality Education, Tuesday (15/2).

"The breakthrough benefits that we have presented have been felt by the various parties, from the head of the department to the education unit. I also want to express my appreciation to the ladies and gentlemen who have supported the transformation efforts that we are currently undertaking together with Emancipated Learning," said the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology in his online presence.

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology collaborates with the Ministry of Finance (Kemenkeu) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (Kemendagri) in bringing about a transformation in the BOP PAUD and Equality Education fund policies that are increasingly accountable, simple in management, and equitable in Indonesia. "Last year, we managed to significantly increase the BOS budget for Primary Schools, Junior High Schools, Senior High Schools, Vocational High Schools, and Special Schools. The units also vary, especially for the regions that need more," explained Minister Nadiem.

"Secondly, last year, we also distributed directly to school accounts. So, in the past, schools had to wait (disbursement of funds) and had to bail out first, now not anymore. Third, we provide flexibility or independence in using the BOS funds to determine what is needed," he added.

Minister Nadiem explained that the policy reforms of BOP PAUD and BOP Equality Education in 2022, including the unit cost of PAUD that varies according to regional characteristics, the direct distribution of BOP PAUD and BOP Equality Education funds from the state treasury to the account of the education unit, and the use of BOP PAUD and BOP Flexible equality. In addition, in 2022, the BOS planning and reporting uses the School Activity Plan and Budget Application (ARKAS) as a single application.

The average increase in BOP PAUD in 2022 is around 9.5 percent. As an example from the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, Kasih Ibu Kindergarten in Mahakam Ulu Regency, East Kalimantan, the BOP funds increased by 60 percent. Meanwhile, Lupuk PAUD in Lanny Jaya Regency Papua increased by 100 percent. "So, we give it based on Pancasila, namely social justice for all Indonesian people," said Nadiem.

"We feel that we cannot provide the same funds for all schools. Those who need more help should be given more with the principle of affirmation," he added.

By direct transfer to the education unit, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology guarantees that the first stage of the BOP PAUD and Education Equality funds will be received by education units in March 2022. "This is a very significant change. With the direct

transfer, the financial condition will be more stable and efficient," explained the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.

The management of BOP PAUD and Equality Education transformations also applies the principle of flexibility in use according to the needs of the education unit. "Much more independent, much more autonomous. We give trust to the Principal, but of course, with a more transparent reporting system," said Nadiem

System Integration

So far, the school budget management system is still separate from the regional financial management system. The education units only need to fill out one application through the breakthrough of the integration of ARKAS with the Regional Development Information System (SIPD) to simplify the system.

"If previously we had to take care of the administration manually and separately between the regional government and the central government, starting this year, ARKAS is enough for schools and MARKAS for offices that become the integrated system. Schools now only need to use one platform, ARKAS or the School Activity Plan and Budget Application, as an application for planning and reporting on using the BOS funds," continued the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.

"I thank the Minister of Finance and the Minister of Home Affairs for our good communication and collaboration, so this breakthrough can be realized," said the Minister of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology.

Meanwhile, the Minister of Finance (Menkeu), Sri Mulyani, considered the importance of the sixteenth Emancipated Learning program because one of its passions was the improvement of policies, procedures, funding, and granting of greater autonomy for education units to reform budgets in schools. The education management and curriculum improvement, he said, became very necessary, and this program was fully supported by the State Budget (APBN).

"The use of APBN funds that are transferred directly to schools must maintain accountability," said the Minister of Finance.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Finance with the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology, and the Ministry of Home Affairs collaborated in carrying out budget reform and integration of the BOS fund management information system to prioritize budget accountability and to see the effectiveness of the APBN budget. "The budget given directly to schools should be enjoyed (maximum) by educators and students. It is also important to show the presence of the state to simplify the bureaucracy," she said.

Sri Mulyani gave her high appreciation to all parties who continue to create momentum for improvement in Indonesian education. "Especially through the Emancipated Learning program, which is part of the government's efforts to improve and respond to challenges in improving the quality of education in Indonesia," she said.

Welcoming the closer collaboration in accelerating and increasing education funds, the Acting Director General of Regional Finance, Agus Fatoni, said that his party is committed to providing a regulatory umbrella related to managing the BOP and the use of ARKAS. "We support the integration of ARKAS and SIPD," he said.

The Ministry of Home Affairs appealed to local governments (Pemda) to accelerate the determination and proposal of education unit accounts in the BOS funds distribution, PAUD BOP, and Equality BOP. And also reminds the local government to make sure that the implementation, control, and supervision of the implementation of the ARKAS system goes well. "We hope that local governments can facilitate education offices, both provincial/district/city, and encourage education units to implement budgeting, administration, and reporting on the use of BOS funds using ARKAS," he added while reminding the local government to ensure the implementation, control, and supervision of the execution of the ARKAS system going well.

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