BY HARUN JAU

KUCHING: The recent announcement by the government of awarding automatic Public Service Commission scholarship to students who have scored 9A+ in their SPM examination has received thumbs up from the Sarawak Teachers’ Union (STU) as well as the general public.

STU President William Ghani Bina, when contacted for his comment yesterday, said he fully welcomed the announcement.

“Everybody is asked to study hard and to get a degree, and giving them scholarship is a very good decision. It will encourage them to study hard. The union welcomes everything that is good,” he said.

Ghani, who is also the President of the Joint Teachers’ Union Councils for Sarawak and Sabah, said the scholarship should be given out every year to those who have achieved the set target.

“It should be given out every year to motivate the students as well as to lessen the financial burden of their parents,” he said, adding that the parents of those who achieved the target should be very happy with the announcement.

Ghani, who is also Vice-Chairman of Joint Teachers’ Unions of Malaysia, said those students who are given the scholarship should be motivated to study even harder.

Sarawak United People’s Party (SUPP) Assistant Publicity Chief Sih Hua Tong was happy to note that this time around, there is much more transparency in giving out scholarships.

He hoped those students who are given the automatic scholarship would continue to study hard and strive to perform better in the studies.

According to Siaw Geng Lock, 53, a SESCO Telephone Operator, the target should not be too high as it is not easy to score 9A+, adding that not many students could achieve the feat.

“Personally, I think that if the government wants to give scholarship to more students, it should not make it too difficult. Maybe, we can set it at 8A+ or 7A+ so that more students could be included,” he said.

“She is good, she added, as it will lessen the financial burden of their parents.

Another taxi driver Mat Bujang, 33, also from Samariang in Petra Jaya, said although he had yet to have any children studying in Form Five, he welcomed the scholarship for those high achievers.

“It is good that the government has this kind of assistance,” he said.