

GOVERNOR SUMUT PROVIDES FREE SCHOOLS, OMBUDSMAN RI PROVIDES APPRECIATION.

Tuesday, 13 January 2026 - sumut

Medan - Media Indonesia - Ombudsman Republik Indonesia (RI) Perwakilan Provinsi Sumatera Utara mengapresiasi atas kebijakan Gubernur Sumatera Utara Bobby Afif Nasution yang menggratiskan biaya pendidikan bagi peserta didik di Kepulauan Nias and disaster-affected areas.

The policy is valued as a responsive and pro-people step for the community, especially in ensuring continuous access to education in emergency conditions.

Ombudsman states that education is a basic right of citizens that must be fulfilled, even in disaster situations. Therefore, the policy of free school fees is in line with the principle of public service that is fair and oriented towards protecting vulnerable groups.

Ombudsman also notes that during this period, school fees in public education units tend to conflict with Government Regulation Number 48 of 2008 on Education Funding.

Article 52 Paragraph (e) and (h) of PP Number 48 of 2008 on Education Funding, for example, states that fees are levied by education units in order to fulfill the responsibility of students, parents, and/or guardians, as intended in Article 48 and Article 51 Paragraph (4) letter c, Article (5) letter c, and Article (6) letter d.

Paragraph (e) does not charge students or parents/guardians who are economically unable; (h). It is not linked to academic requirements for student admission, assessment of student learning results, and/or student graduation from the education unit.

In reality, school fees are set by committees and schools equally for all students and/or parents of students and tend to be indifferent to the economic ability of parents of students. Besides that, school fees are often linked to academic prerequisites, where students who have not paid fees cannot follow exams and other things.

Therefore, the Representative Ombudsman of the Republic of Indonesia, Provincial Office of North Sumatra, appreciates the Governor of North Sumatra for providing free education at the SMA/SMK level that will be implemented in a phased manner starting from the Nias Islands and disaster-affected areas.

It will then be applied comprehensively in North Sumatra, and this step is a form of implementation of the constitutional mandate that "Every Citizen has the Right to Education".