



27 March 2019
Release 04 / Mar 2019

MEDIA ADVISORY

ETF CLIMBATHON: THE SEQUEL BIGGER, BOLDER, BRAVER

The Education Trust Fund's (ETF) unique fundraising initiative, the Climbathon, returns this year with a bigger and bolder target; to conquer Annapurna Base Camp (ABC). The Road to Annapurna begins this Saturday, 30 March 2019, with the first Climbathon event of the year at Pulau Ubin's Puaka Hill. More than 60 participants will trek Ubin and make the climb to Puaka Hill in support of the ETF.

We cordially invite your reporters, cameramen and photographers to join us at the Climbathon. Registration will start at 7.30am at Changi Point Ferry Terminal. Mr Zaqy Mohd, Minister-of-State for the Ministry of National Development & Ministry of Manpower who is also the deputy chairman of Yayasan MENDAKI board of directors will be meeting the participants prior to the flag-off. He will be joined by Mdm Rahayu Mahzam, Member of Parliament for Jurong GRC, as we cheer the participants on towards the peak of excellence. Opportunities for interviews will be made available. Details of the event are as follows:

Event	ETF Climbathon 2019: Puaka Hill
Day, Date	Saturday, 30 March 2019
Time	7.30am – 2.00pm (VIP programme: 7.30am – 8.30am)
Venue	Changi Point Ferry Terminal (Meeting Point) Pulau Ubin (Climbathon)

Education Trust Fund (ETF) Background

The Education Trust Fund (ETF) was initiated in 2002 to provide financial assistance to children from low-income Malay/Muslim families. Supported by Yayasan MENDAKI as the administrator, the ETF and other donations have given out more than \$22 million and assisted over 91,000 students since its inception.

The ETF provides subsidies and financial assistance to low income families for their educational needs from pre-school level to Institute of Technical Education (ITE). The ETF has also been extended to include students from niche and vocational schools such as the NUS High School, Spectra and Crest Secondary. On average, the ETF supports 10,000 students annually through its various schemes with an expenditure of \$2.3 million yearly.

Schemes under ETF:

S/N	ETF Schemes	Details
1	ETF Pre-school Subsidy <i>Introduced in 2003</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial assistance for pre-school education to Malay/Muslim in cases where existing financial assistance schemes are unable to provide or the amount provided by existing schemes are insufficient.
2	ETF School Assistance Scheme <i>Introduced in 2005</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial assistance for children in primary and secondary school.They will receive \$200 and \$250 vouchers respectively for them to purchase textbooks, assessment books and stationery.From 2009, a joint scheme was formed for MENDAKI beneficiaries where upon approval of ETF application, their MENDAKI tuition fees (MTS/CTP) will be waived.
3	ETF School Assistance Scheme (Vocational and Niche Schools) <i>Introduced in 2011</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Financial assistance to students who are studying in vocational and niche schools. Vocational schools include Assumption Pathway, Northlight School, Spectra and Crest Secondary. Niche schools supported are SOTA, NUS High, Sports School and SST. Each student will receive a bursary of \$250.00.

4	Aziz-Merchant Bursary <i>Introduced in 2007</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The bursary is to encourage students to do well and complete their studies. • Assists student's incidental costs such as buying assessment books, school field trips, tuition fees, reading books and etc. Selected students will receive \$500 each.
5	ETF-ITE Start-up Cost <i>Introduced in 2010</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This scheme provides assistance for Year 1 students in the purchase of materials for school purposes. Assistance is one-off and dependent on the course of study.
6	ETF-Big Heart Student Care Subsidy <i>Introduced in 2016</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This scheme provides additional assistance for Malay/Muslim students enrolled in Big Heart Student Care Centres (BHSCC).